

L'alfabeto italiano

contains twenty-one letters:

Letters / Names of the letters

a a
b bi
c ci
d di
e e
f effe
g gi
h acca
i i
l elle
m emme
n enne
o o
p pi
q cu
r erre
s esse
t ti
u u
v vu
z zeta

The following five letters are found in foreign words:

Letters / Names of the letters

j i lungo – jogging
k kappa - kayak
w doppia vu – www. website
x ics – Xerox
y ipsilon – yogurt

PRONUNCIATION

HARD C before **a**, **o**, and **u** is like the English *k*.

casa house
Colosseo Colosseum
cane dog
caffè coffee

SOFT before **e** or **i** is like the English sound *ch* in *chest*.

cena supper
cibo food

concerto concert
aceto vinegar
cipolla onion

ch (found only before **e** or **i**) is like the English *k*.
chimica chemistry
perché because
chiuso closed

g before **a**, **o**, and **u** is as in the English word *go*.
gala gala
albergo hotel
gondola gondola
gusto taste

g before **e** or **i** is like the *g* in *gem*.
gelato ice cream
angelo angel
pagina page
gente people

gh (found only before **e** or **i**) is like the *g* in *go*
ghetto ghetto
funghi mushrooms
laghi lakes

gli is approximately like *ll* in *million*.
miglio better
famiglia family
aglio garlic
bottiglia bottle

gn
signore gentleman
bagno bath
lasagne lasagna

sc before **a**, **o**, or **u** is like *sk* in *ask*.
scuola school
toscana Tuscan
scarpa shoe
scultura sculpture

sc before **e** or **i** is like the English sound *sh* in *fish*.
sci ski

pesce fish
scena scene
uscita exit

sch occurs only before **e** or **i**, and is pronounced like the English *sk*.

tasche pockets
dischi disks; records
scheletro skeleton

z is sometimes voiceless, like *ts* in *bets*.

pizza pizza
negozio store
marzo March
grazie thank you

z is sometimes voiced, like *ds* in *beds*.

zero zero
zebra zebra
pranzo lunch
zanzara mosquito

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