

ITALIAN SOCIAL HABITS

Greetings

When you are introduced to an Italian in a *formal* background, you have to say “Buongiorno” (good morning) used until 1pm, then you have to say “Buona sera” (good afternoon / good evening), and shake hands. It’s also common to say “Molto piacere” (please to meet you) when being introduced. Instead in an *informal* context you aren’t supposed to shake hands and you can simply say “Ciao” (hello). This greeting is used only among friends.



“Lei” and “Tu”

When talking to an older person or, in a business context, senior person you have to use the formal form of address (lei) unless the latter invites to use the familiar form (tu), used with children, animals, God and friends. “lei” is also used with local authorities (for ex. Policemen, the local mayor or tax officials).



Superstitions

Mainly in the south of Italy superstitions are common. Avoiding walking under a ladder, refusing to keep driving because a black cat has just crossed your path or after tripping up, go back on your steps and repeat the action once more, without failing; these are common ways to avoid

“sfortuna” (bad luck).

The “scarpetta”

When we have lunch or dinner with our family or with our friends, we sometimes get a piece of bread and clean whatever sauce is left on our plate.

However this is considered rude when we are in a formal context

(for ex. When we go out to eat in a restaurant).



There’s a thermometer in almost every house

Almost every Italian house has a thermometer, the tool used to verify if someone has got “fever”. For this reason owning a thermometer is reassuring for us.

We use a bidet regularly

A bidet is a lower sink settled next to the toilet in Italian bathrooms. We usually use it to wash our neither region after using the toilet. While in the other countries it isn't common, in Italy nearly the 97% of the Italian homes has it.



after

Coffee

We usually have coffee after every meal or during a day as a break from work. We use to have coffee with milk, "cappuccino", *only* in the morning as we have breakfast, so no cappuccino after midday. The only acceptable exception is if you've woken up late, are having breakfast and the weather is cold.



Sources: www.justlanded.com www.thelocal.it

Exercise:

Put the letters in the exact order to form the Italian words in the text.

- 1) Bonuigroon =
- 2) fsronaut =
- 3) eil =
- 4) facfè =

by Anna Luisa G. 2EL



ITALIAN HABITS

Kissing in Italy

Italian families and friends usually kiss when they meet. If a lady expects you to kiss her, she offers her cheek. The 'kiss' is deposited high up on the cheek, and it isn't usually really a kiss, more a delicate brushing of the cheeks accompanied by kissing noise.

There are usually two kisses – first on the right cheek, then on the left. It's also common in Italy for male relatives and close male friends to embrace each other and not any kiss.

Don't drink

In Italy, it's considered bad to drink on an empty stomach. So, when someone offers you a random drink, the polite response is: "No thank you, I haven't eaten yet."

Talking loudly

Everyone speaks louder than people in other countries. When someone arrives in Italy can think that Italians are trying to fight him or that they are all angry. But the truth is that they speak loud every day with everybody.

Italian gestures

Everybody in Italy use hand gestures: children, teenagers, women and men. There are no differences; it's a way of communication used by everyone. Literally hands and fingers do the talking.

by Matilde F. 2E

A Short Lexicon of Italian Gestures

For Italians, it comes naturally. But what do they mean when they talk with their hands? Many things. Roll over the images to learn a few classic gestures. [Related Article »](#)



Perfect!



What in God's name are you saying?



Nothing.



I don't care.



Those two get along.



It wasn't me or I don't know.

<https://www.justlanded.com/english/Italy/Articles/Culture/Social-customs-in-Italy>

<https://www.justlanded.com/english/Italy/Articles/Culture/Social-customs-in-Italy>

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/07/01/world/europe/A-Short-Lexicon-of-Italian-Gestures.html?_r=0

Italian's social habits

As all the other countries in the Universe, Italy has its own social habits. A social habit is “a social behavior that is so deeply rooted in our society that we do it automatically”. (Definition from the Psychology dictionary)

The first and most known Italian habit is the massive use of gestures. We always use them while talking to somebody. They give more emphasis and help you explaining things you wouldn't know how to express. It's something we do automatically and we can't stop. We have lots of gestures that change from region to region. Every gesture has a meaning, but different gestures can mean the same thing. We use to wave our hands when we greet someone, both when we meet and when we leave. Greeting is another habit of Italians. We use many different words, that change depending on the time and how well you know the person who are you greeting, for example: ciao, buongiorno, buon pomeriggio, buonasera, buonanotte...

Adults usually greet each other with a delicate brushing of the cheeks accompanied by kissing noises, first on the right cheek, then on the other. Italy is divided into 22 different regions, and every region has its own habits, typical dishes and products. Every area has its dialect. They are very different one from each other. Many dialects are the result of a mixtures of languages the various conquerors ruled different parts of Italy.

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<http://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/10000002309793/the-italian-gesture-.html>

by Benedetta B. 2G