

# "Italian school life"

Italian school life is divided into three cycles of education.

The first one is the primary school, which begins at age six and continues for five years.

When children turn eleven they usually start the middle school, that lasts only three years. This cycle ends with an exam to test every student's competences.



Then, they attend high school for five years. They have to choose among the Lycées, Technical schools and vocational schools.

Pupils generally select the school basing their choice on subjects that are more in-depth and they like much more.

This is the most important step for every pupil's school life, as they can figure out their passions and what they prefer studying much more.

After the final exam of the five years of high school students can choose to start working or continue studying at the university they have selected, usually not too far from home.



Our Lycée seat, ancient building, but crowded with young people

Though Italian students don't have any school uniform, they have to wear something suitable for school.

Talking about Italian school time, it's quite different from the ordinary one in the other countries.

Starting from the beginning, Italian pupils wake up early, from 6 am to 7 am; of course, it depends on the distance their own school is from their homes.

They usually have to be ready in the classrooms at 8 am and they have only a break (at around 10.45 am).

In an ordinary school day pupils, might have from 4 to 6 lessons; it depends on the school plan each class has.

Most of the schools end lessons in the morning from 12 am to 2 pm, and then, students can go back home and have their lunch. Some primary schools have two afternoons as well. The school week is from Monday to Saturday for most of the schools.

During the entire school year pupils are in the same classroom with the same school mates, and only the teachers have to move from room to room to have their lessons.

For the entire cycle of education (primary school, middle school and high school), students could be moved over another classroom but mates never change, unless somebody chooses to move on to another school or has to repeat the year.

Italian students have a long period of vacation in summer, which lasts three months, instead during the school year there are two weeks of holiday for Christmas and 5 days for Easter, and a few one-day holidays for festivities.

So there's a long period of school and another one to relax.

I think most of Italian students like to have the entire summer (starting around 10<sup>th</sup> of June to 15<sup>th</sup> September) free to enjoy the hot and sunny days. Of course, the final exam at



Liceo Classico



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high school keeps the students busy until around 10<sup>th</sup> of July and for the weaker students there are exams at the beginning of September.

Sources :

- [https://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwjSyOzY8J3PAhXoJMAKHsSbDT0QFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.lifeinitaly.com%2Fmoving%2Fschool-system.asp&usg=AFQjCNE7tDoB4ILsK9q2iYaNO\\_Liq1Alhw&sig2=7QrfLhWbDLnNvjCMs3JY3Q&bvm=bv.133387755,bs.2,d.d2s](https://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwjSyOzY8J3PAhXoJMAKHsSbDT0QFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.lifeinitaly.com%2Fmoving%2Fschool-system.asp&usg=AFQjCNE7tDoB4ILsK9q2iYaNO_Liq1Alhw&sig2=7QrfLhWbDLnNvjCMs3JY3Q&bvm=bv.133387755,bs.2,d.d2s)
- [https://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwjSyOzY8J3PAhXoJMAKHsSbDT0QFggkMAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FEducation\\_in\\_Italy&usg=AFQjCNGBpLMak8RbSghAna1ew7RUotQGjA&sig2=E8Nt0jsT8DaBuEXYf8gPPw&bvm=bv.133387755,bs.2,d.d2s](https://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwjSyOzY8J3PAhXoJMAKHsSbDT0QFggkMAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FEducation_in_Italy&usg=AFQjCNGBpLMak8RbSghAna1ew7RUotQGjA&sig2=E8Nt0jsT8DaBuEXYf8gPPw&bvm=bv.133387755,bs.2,d.d2s)

## Exercises

### Circle the right option.

1. Italian school has **2 / 3 / 5** cycles of education.
2. The middle school lasts **1 / 3 / 6** years.
3. High school starts when students have **12 / 13 / 14**.
4. School mates **change / remain the same** during a cycle of education.
5. Lessons start at **7.55 / 8 / 10.45** am.
6. Holydays **are / aren't** spread during the entire year.
7. Summer vacations last **3 days / weeks / months**.
8. Teachers **have / don't have** to move to classroom in classroom.

### True or false?

Primary school lasts as the high school .....	T	F
High school comes before middle school .....	T	F
Students can't change school .....	T	F
Students don't move over another classroom during school days .....	T	F
Students have holydays during the school year, too.....	T	F

Put in the right order letters to write the words.

ETMI: \_\_\_\_\_

NSETSUDT: \_\_\_\_\_

ECHTERA: \_\_\_\_\_

YCSEL: \_\_\_\_\_

OYDALHY: \_\_\_\_\_

Put together the last letter of each group with the other ones...they create a word:

.....



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