

Alphabetical Listing of Italian Spellings

Letter	Italian Spelling	IPA	Italian Word with IPA	English Word
a	a	[a]	cara ['ka:.ra]	time
	ai (diphthong)	[a:i]	mai [ma:i]	<i>similar to mine</i>
	au (diphthong)	[a:u]	lauda ['la:u.da]	<i>similar to house</i>
b	b	[b]	bella ['bɛl.la]	Bob
	bb	[b.b]	babbo ['bab.bro]	cab_boy
c	c before a, o, u or a consonant	[k]	canto ['kan.to]	kick
	c before e, i	[tʃ]	cielo ['tʃɛ:.lo]	church
	cc before a, o, u or a consonant	[k.k]	ecco ['ɛk.ko]	milk_cow
	cc before e, i	[t.tʃ]	Puccini ['put.tʃi.ni]	not_cheep
	ch	[k]	chi [ki]	chorus
	cch	[k.k]	occhi ['ɔk.ki]	deck_cabin
	cqu	[k.kw]	acqua ['ak.kwa]	deck_queen
d	d	[d]	diva ['di:.va]	deed
	dd	[d.d]	Nedda ['nɛd.da]	bed_down
e	e normally when unstressed	[e]	nome ['no:.me]	<i>similar to chaotic</i>
	unstressed and preceding m, r, l, n and a consonant	[ɛ]	entrare [ɛn.'tra:.rɛ]	
	e in the stressed syllable following the rules for the open -e.	[ɛ]	pieno ['pjɛ:.no] gelida ['dʒɛ:.li.da]	yes
	ei (diphthong)	[ɛ:i]	lei [lɛ:i]	similar to lay
	eu (diphthong)	[ɛ:u]	euro ['ɛ:u.ro]	no English equivalent
f	f	[f]	finire [fi.'ni:.rɛ]	five
	ff	[f.f]	affetto [af.'fɛt.to]	half_full
g	g before a, o, u or a consonant	[g]	figura [fi.'gu:.ra]	go
	g before e, i	[dʒ]	gemma ['dʒɛm.ma]	gentle
	gg before a, o, u or a consonant	[g.g]	fugga ['fug.ga]	big_gun
	gg before e, i	[d.dʒ]	figge ['fid.dʒɛ]	bad_gem
	gli (the <i>elya</i>) initial	[ʎ]	gli [ʎi]	<i>similar to million</i>
	medial	[ʎ.ʎ]	figlio ['fiʎ.ʎo]	
	initial when following a vowel	[ʎʎ]	burla gli ['bur.la ʎʎi]	
	gn initial	[ɲ]	gnocco ['ɲok.ko]	<i>similar to onion</i>
	medial – always doubled	[ɲ.ɲ]	degno ['dɛɲ.no]	
	initial when following a vowel	[ɲɲ]	di gnocchi [di 'ɲɲo.ki]	
gu	[gw]	guarda ['gwar.da]	Gwendolyn	
h	h	silent	perché [per.'kɛ]	

i	i	[i]	fine	['fi:.ne]	machine
	i in the diphthongs <i>ai, ei, oi, ui</i>	[i]	voi	['vo:i]	machine
	i as a glide: <i>ia, ie, io, iu</i>	[j]	fiamma	['fjam.ma]	yes
	i as a glide after <i>c, sc, g, or gl</i>	silent	cielo sciolto giusto sceglierà	['tʃe:.lo] ['ʃol.to] ['dʒu.sto] [ʃeʎ.ʎe.'ra]	
	iei (triphthong)	[je:i]	miei	[mje:i]	no English equivalent
j	j (old form of <i>i</i> glide)	[j]	Tajo	['ta:.jo]	yes
k	k used only in foreign words				
l	l	[l]	vile	['vi:.le]	lily
	ll	[l.l]	ballo	['bal:.lo]	ill_lady
m	m	[m]	morte	['mɔr.te]	mime
	mm	[m.m]	mamma	['mam.ma]	mom_moved
n	n	[n]	non	[non]	no
	nn	[n.n]	donna	['dɔn.na]	can_never
	n before [k] or [g] spelled <i>c</i> or <i>g</i>	[ŋ]	banca sangue	['baŋ.ka] [saŋ.gwe]	anchor, anger
o	o in most unstressed syllables	[o]	naso	['na:.zo]	<i>similar to</i> obey
	preceding <i>r</i> plus another cons.	[ɔ]	dormire	[dɔr.'mi:.re]	loft
	o in the stressed syllable following the rules for the open <i>-o</i>	[ɔ]	opera	['ɔ:.pe.ra]	loft
p	p	[p]	pane	['pa:.ne]	<i>similar to</i> pop
	pp	[p.p]	doppio	['dɔp.pjo]	top_power
q	qu	[kw]	qui	[kwi]	queen
r	r between two vowels	[r]	aurore	[a:u.'ro:.re]	very (British)
	initial when following a vowel	[r]	la rosa	[la 'ro:.za]	
	r in all other cases	[r]	morte	['mɔr.te]	no English example
	rr doubled	[r.r]	orrore	[or.'ro:.re]	no English example
s	s standard pronunciation	[s]	sempre	['sem.pre]	sit
	s between two vowels (sung)	[z]	rosa	['ro:.za]	rose
	s between two vowels (spoken)	[s]	così	[ko.'si]	sit
	s in endings <i>-oso</i> and <i>-ese</i> (spoken)	[s]	doloroso	[do.lo.'ro:.so]	sit
	s in the added reflexive <i>-si</i>	[s]	partasi	['par.ta.si]	sit
	s in compounds using <i>sei</i> (six)	[s]	trentasei	['tren.ta.se:i]	sit
	s after a prefix ending in a vowel	[s]	resistere	[re.'si.ste.re]	sit
	s before a voiced consonant (<i>b, d, g, l, m, n, r, v</i>)	[z]	risvolto sgelo	[ri.'zvol.to] [zge:.lo]	rose
	ss	[s.s]	tassa	['tas.sa]	this_side

SC	sc before <i>e, i</i> - initial	[ʃ]	sciolta	[ˈʃol.ta]	sheep
	medial	[ʃ.ʃ]	lasciate	[laʃ.ˈʃa.te]	dish_shine
	initial when following a vowel	[ʃ.ʃ]	la scena	[la ˈʃʃe:.na]	dish_shine
	sc before <i>a, o, u</i> or a consonant	[sk]	ascolta	[a.ˈskol.ta]	scar
t	t	[t]	dito	[ˈdi:.to]	test
	tt	[t.t]	brutto	[ˈbrut.to]	that_time
u	u	[u]	musica	[ˈmu:.zi.ka]	tune
	u in the diphthongs <i>au, eu,</i>	[u]	lauda	[ˈla:u.da]	tune
	u as a glide <i>ua, ue, ui, uo</i>	[w]	guerra uomo	[ˈgwer.ra] [ˈwo:.mo]	queen
v	v	[v]	vino	[ˈvi:.no]	vine
	vv	[v.v]	evviva	[ev.ˈvi:.va]	dive_very
W	used only in foreign words				
X	used only in foreign words				
y	used only in foreign words				
Z	z doubled when intervocalic	[t.ts]	grazia	[ˈgrat.tsja]	its
		[d.dz]	Suzuki	[sud.ˈdzu:.ki]	beads
	single when following a cons.	[ts]	senza	[ˈsɛn.tsa]	
		[dz]	bronzo	[ˈbron.dzo]	
	double when initial after a vowel	[tts]	lo zio	[lo tsi:o]	
	single when initial after a cons.	[dz]	un zero	[un ˈdzɛ:.ro]	
	zz	[t.ts] [d.dz]	nozze mezzo	[ˈnot.tse] [ˈmɛd.dzo]	

Other Symbols

[.] **The syllable dot.** A syllable dot is placed between syllables within a single word.

['] **The primary stress mark.** In words with more than one syllable, a primary stress mark is placed before the stressed syllable to indicate the stressed syllable. Stressing **does not** indicate the relative length of one vowel to another.

[:] **The symbol of elongation.** Italian uses the symbol of elongation for both diphthongs and single vowels to represent the difference in relative length of two vowels within a single word. Not all words will contain vowels of differing length. The symbol of elongation will be used in the following instances.

1. The vowel in the stressed syllable will be elongated if it is followed by a single consonant.
Example: *rosa* ['ro:za]
2. The vowel in the stressed syllable will be elongated if it is followed by one of the single affricate ([tʃ] [tʂ] [dʒ] [dʒ]) combinations. Example: *placide* ['pla:.tʃi.de]
3. The Italian diphthong is long vowel followed by a vowel of shorter length with a ratio of approximately 2 to 1 with the quarter at 120 beats per minute. The overall length of the two vowels will only be longer in relation to other vowels in the word if the diphthong is found in the stressed syllable. Examples: *mai* [ma:i], *cauto* ['ka:u.to], *Euridice* [e:u.ri.'di:.tʃe]
4. Vowel elongation is not used in monosyllabic words or words ending in a stressed syllable. Words that drop the final vowel will receive elongation if stressed on the penultimate syllable. Example: *baciar* from *baciare* [ba.'tʃa:r], *sospirar* from *sospirare* [sos.pi.'ra:r].
5. The symbol of elongation is not used with double consonants in these texts.

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