

Italian For Gringos Lesson 5 Ordering Food Drink 2026 10 06

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Maya: Ciao, travelers! Welcome to lesson five of Italian for Gringos. I'm Maya, and Devon is here with me.

Devon: Ciao! Today's lesson is my favorite so far, because we're ordering food and drink.

Maya: That's right. You're at a restaurant in Rome, the waiter is walking over, and now you know exactly what to say. Let's learn seven phrases that get you fed and happy.

Maya: Phrase one. The menu is il menù. Say eel meh-NOO. Stress that last syllable, meh-NOO, and say it with confidence when the waiter arrives.

Devon: Eel meh-NOO. Il menù. I can already taste the pasta.

Maya: Phrase two, and this one is the most important sentence in the whole lesson. I would like is vorrei. Say voh-RAY. It rhymes with oh, hey. Add anything after it, like vorrei la pizza, I would like the pizza.

Devon: Voh-RAY. Vorrei. So polite and so useful.

Maya: Phrase three. For me is per me. Say pehr meh. Two short syllables. When everyone is ordering around the table, your turn starts with per me.

Devon: Pehr meh. Per me. Short and sweet.

Maya: Phrase four. A table for two is un tavolo per due. Say oon tah-VOH-loh pehr DOO-eh. Swap in tre for three, or quattro for four, and the host knows your party size instantly.

Devon: Oon tah-VOH-loh pair DOO-eh. A table for two. Romantic already.

Maya: Phrase five. The appetizer is l'antipasto. Say lahn-tee-PAHS-toh. Try the antipasti at every restaurant, they are some of the best eating in Italy.

Devon: Lahn-tee-PAHS-toh. L'antipasto. Appetizers are my happy place.

Maya: Phrase six. The dessert is il dolce. Say eel DOHL-cheh. That ch sound is the soft ch of chair, just like in ciao.

Devon: Eel DOHL-cheh. Il dolce. I am saving room.

Maya: Phrase seven. It's delicious is   buonissimo. Say eh bwoh-NEES-see-moh. Hold the double s a little longer, bwoh-NEES-see-moh. Compliment the chef with this and you'll be treated like family.

Devon: Eh bwoh-NEES-see-moh. Buonissimo! Okay, I am ordering dinner tonight.

Maya: Time for our demo dialogue. I'm the waiter, Devon is you, the hungry traveler.

Devon: Buonasera! Un tavolo per due, per favore.

Maya: Certo! Ecco il menù.

Devon: Grazie. Vorrei l'antipasto, e per me la pizza margherita.

Maya: Ottimo. E da bere?

Devon: Un'acqua, per favore. Grazie.

Maya: Did you catch it all? Devon asked for a table for two, ordered an antipasto and a

like that system.

Maya: Let's close with the recap drill. Three phrases, repeat after me. Number one, the menu, il menù. Eel meh-NOO.

Devon: Eel meh-NOO. Il menù.

Maya: Number two, I would like, vorrei. Voh-RAY.

Devon: Voh-RAY. Vorrei.

Maya: Number three, the bill, il conto. Eel KOHN-toh.

Devon: Eel KOHN-toh. Il conto.

Maya: Magnifico! Lesson five is in the books. You can walk into any restaurant in Italy and order with confidence. Tomorrow, lesson six, we go deeper: dietary needs, delicious compliments, and the check done right. A domani!

Devon: A domani! And remember, vorrei is your superpower. Voh-RAY!