



Facciamo shopping... in italiano

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VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Today's lesson is designed for beginners: if you want to spice up your basic shopping vocabulary, this is the lesson for you. We'll take you shopping in a clothes shop — that's useful vocabulary, especially in Italy — and we'll learn to say what we like and don't like, the famous *mi piace*, *mi piacciono* that can be a bit tricky for learners. Cominciamo, vi piacerà!

DIALOGO

Viola: Ciao Sandra, **dove vai?**

Sandra: Ciao Viola! **Vado a comprare** un paio di scarpe, vieni con me?

Viola: Sì! Voglio delle scarpe nuove **da abbinare** ai vestiti che ho comprato! Guarda: una bella **camicietta** e **un paio di pantaloni** che **stanno bene** insieme.

Sandra: Senti, Viola... **dobbiamo** tornare **subito** al negozio!

Viola: Perché?

Sandra: Mi dispiace Viola, ma devi **cambiare** questi vestiti! **Non ti stanno bene!**

Viola: Perché? Questa camicietta **a pois** bianchi rossi e neri è molto bella, **non ti piace?** E i pantaloni **a quadretti** viola e neri? **Non ti piacciono?** Sono bellissimi!

Sandra: Viola, ma come **ti vesti?** Ma **ti rendi conto?** Così sembrerai un pagliaccio!

Viola: Ma uffa!

Did you understand? Don't worry, I will break down the dialogue line by line; the most relevant expressions are in red.

Ciao Sandra, dove vai? Hi Sandra, where are you going?

Dove is where, and *vai* is you go. So, *dove vai*, where are you going?

Ciao Viola! Vado a comprare un paio di scarpe, vieni con me?

Hi Viola! I'm going to buy a pair of shoes, are you coming with me?

Un paio di scarpe is a pair of shoes. We can say: *voglio comprare un paio di scarpe*, or *voglio comprare delle scarpe*. *Delle* is the partitive article, it corresponds to the English *some*.

Vado is I go. Remember? *Vai* is you go; the infinitive is *andare*. It's an irregular verb!

Comprare is to buy; so *vado a comprare* can be translated as I'm going to buy.

The structure is andare a + infinitive. For example:

Vado a comprare il giornale, I'm going to buy the newspaper.

Vanno a vedere una mostra, they're going to see an exhibition. *Andare a*.

Sì! Voglio delle scarpe nuove da abbinare ai vestiti che ho comprato!

Yes! I want some new shoes to go with the clothes I bought!

Interesting expression: *da abbinare*. To go with. *Abbinare* means to pair, so in a shop you could ask:

Vorrei una borsa da abbinare a queste scarpe. I would like a bag to go with these shoes.

Or: *Cosa posso abbinare a questo maglione?* What can I wear with this jumper?

So we added two more words: **borsa**, bag, usually a ladies' bag, and **maglione**, jumper.

Now, back to our sentence:

Sì! Voglio delle scarpe nuove da abbinare ai vestiti che ho comprato!

I vestiti che ho comprato, the clothes that I bought. In English, in this case, the word *that* is optional: the clothes that I bought, the clothes I bought. In Italian we cannot drop that little word *che*. *Che* in this context is needed to introduce a relative clause. We cannot say: *Hai visto i vestiti ho comprato?* Something is missing. We say: *Hai visto i vestiti che ho comprato?* Did you see the clothes that I bought?

Vestiti is clothes; we can say *un negozio di vestiti*, a clothing shop, why not, but it's also called un **negozio di abbigliamento**. This expression is a bit more elegant. A synonym for *vestiti* is *abiti*; we can say *abito da uomo*, men's suit, *abito da sera*, evening dress.

Remember: *vestiti*, plural, is clothes; but **vestito**, masculine singular, means dress.

Next:

*Guarda: una bella **camicetta** e un paio di pantaloni che **stanno bene** insieme.*

Look: a nice blouse and a pair of trousers that go well together.

I'm pretty sure you are familiar with this: *Come stai? Stai bene?*

When we ask someone how they are doing, *stare bene* means to be well, to feel good. We can also use the same expression for clothes that look good together:

*Questa gonna sta bene con questa **maglia**,* This skirt goes well with this top.

But, drum roll, the expression *stare bene* is also used to say that an item of clothing looks good on someone, that it suits that person:

*Questo **impermeabile** ti sta bene!* This raincoat looks good on you!

*Mi stanno bene questi **occhiali**?* Do these glasses suit me?

Why *mi* and *ti*? They are pronouns that mean *a me*, to me, and *a te*, to you:

Questo impermeabile sta bene a te; questo impermeabile ti sta bene.

In everyday Italian indirect pronouns like *ti* and *mi* are very common; we use *a me*, *a te* and so on for emphasis:

Questi occhiali stanno bene a te, ma non a me. These glasses look good on you, but not on me.

But, wait a minute, what can we say about size? For example, when a shirt does not fit? We say: *andare bene*. Watch out: *andare bene*, not *stare bene*.

Questa camicia non mi va bene, peccato! This shirt doesn't fit me, too bad!

Questi pantaloni mi vanno bene, li prendo! These trousers fit me well, I'll take them!

Let's go on with our dialogue:

Senti, Viola... dobbiamo tornare subito al negozio!

Listen, Viola... we need to go back to the shop straight away!

Perché? Why?

*Mi dispiace Viola, ma devi **cambiare** questi vestiti! **Non ti stanno bene!***

I'm sorry Viola, but you have to change these clothes! They don't suit you!

Dobbiamo tornare: we need to go back to the shop. *Subito:* right now, straight away.

Dovere is an irregular verb. Let's review its conjugation, presente indicativo:

Io devo, tu devi. Lui/lei deve, noi dobbiamo, voi dovete, loro devono.

Devi cambiare questi vestiti, you have to change these clothes.

We have *dovere* followed by an infinitive. For example: *devo andare*, I have to go. *Devi tornare*, you have to come back. Here, *devi cambiare*. So, in a shop you could ask:

Questa giacca non mi va bene, la posso cambiare? This jacket doesn't fit, can I change it?

Why does she need to change them? *Perché non le stanno bene*, because they don't suit her. You know this already.

One more line:

Perché? Questa camicetta a pois bianchi rossi e neri è molto bella, non ti piace? E i pantaloni a quadretti viola e neri? Non ti piacciono? Sono bellissimi!

Camicetta a pois bianchi rossi e neri, black polka dot blouse. Polka dot, *a pois*. *Una sciarpa a pois, una gonna a pois*. We use the French word for dots.

Pantaloni a quadretti, checked trousers.

Non ti piace? Don't you like it? *Non ti piacciono?* Don't you like them?

THE VERB PIACERE

And here we come to the sore point! Many of you know that the construction of I like, *mi piace*, is peculiar. *Mi piace* literally means this is pleasing to me. To me is *mi*.

So, *mi piace il cinema italiano* literally means Italian cinema is pleasing to me. So far so good. But then, what is the problem? Learners of Italian often get confused with plural nouns, and they say: *Mi piace molto questi pantaloni*. Or: *Mi piace molto questi quadri*.

Instead, we should say: *Mi piacciono molto questi pantaloni, Mi piacciono molto questi quadri*, because the grammatical subject is *pantaloni* and *quadri*, strange as it may sound; we have a plural subject, *pantaloni* or *quadri*, therefore we have a plural verb: *piacciono*.

It is as if the trousers and the paintings were performing the action of pleasing me.

In a nutshell, the secret is: if you like one thing, just one, then say *mi piace*; if you like several things, then say *mi piacciono*. That's it.

The dialogue ends with some more advanced expressions that can be useful to speak in a more colourful way.

Viola, ma come ti vesti? Viola, what are you wearing? Literally how do you dress yourself; *vestirsi* in Italian is a reflexive verb, and is conjugated with reflexive pronouns. Let's quickly review its conjugation:

Io mi vesto, tu ti vesti, lui/lei si veste, noi ci vestiamo, voi vi vestite, loro si vestono.

Come ti vesti is quite strong; you mean the other person dresses really badly.

Ma ti rendi conto? Can you believe it? Literally, do you realise?

Rendersi conto is a very common expression:

Ti rendi conto che hai fatto una stupidaggine? Do you realise that you have done something stupid?

This verb is also conjugated with reflexive pronouns.

My advice is to learn it as it is, better in a context: *Ma ti rendi conto? Sono le dieci e Marco dorme ancora!*

Now let's follow Sandra and Viola to the clothes shop, *al negozio di abbigliamento*, to hear how they use some of the expressions we have just learned! This time, I won't translate it line by line, please focus on recognising recurring expressions.

But before we do that, some useful vocabulary:

Taglia, size. *Scontrino*, receipt. *Provare*: to try on. *Camerini*: changing rooms. *Ecco qui*: here you are. *A righe*: striped.

Sandra: Mi scusi, la mia amica vuole cambiare questi vestiti!

Commessa: **Certo, c'è qualche problema, signora? La taglia andava bene!**

Viola: Certo, la camicetta e i pantaloni mi vanno bene, ma alla mia amica non piacciono!

Sandra: Questi vestiti non stanno bene insieme!

Commessa: **Nessun problema. Se ha lo scontrino possiamo cambiarli.**

Viola: Posso provare quella giacca rosa?

Sandra: No, rosa no!

Viola: Sì, rosa!

Commessa: **Ecco qui. I camerini sono a destra.**

Viola: Grazie. Provo anche la gonna rossa a quadretti e la maglia a righe blu e viola.

Sandra: Senti Viola, ma come ti vesti?

Viola: Ma uffa!

Viola and Sandra go back to the shop to change Viola's clothes. The shop assistant says they can change them if they still have the receipt. Viola thinks the clothes she bought go well together, but Sandra disagrees. However, Viola's taste in clothes is not the best!

Now let's go over the vocabulary for clothing together:

Camicia, camicetta

Maglietta

Maglione

Felpa

Giacca

Giacca a vento, giaccone

Impermeabile

Cappotto

Gonna

Pantaloni

Jeans

Borsa, borsetta

Cintura

Cappello

Guanti

Sciarpa

Cravatta

Scarpe da ginnastica

Scarpe con il tacco alto

Stivali

Sandali

Calze, calzini

Collant

A righe, a quadretti, a pois, tinta unita, di lana, di cotone, di seta, di pelle, sintetico.

Useful phrases:

Scusi, vorrei..

Posso provarlo?

Che taglia porta?
Che numero porta? (scarpe)
Ci sono altri colori?
La taglia va bene/non va bene.
È troppo piccolo/troppo grande.
Quanto costa? Quanto costano?
È un po' caro.
Mi può fare un po' di sconto?
Posso cambiarlo?
Va bene.

Now look at this picture: can you describe what the girl is wearing?

La ragazza indossa... The girl is wearing...



Now you know the key phrases for shopping in a clothes shop; you also know many useful terms. You can say whether you like or dislike something, and you can ask to change it.

If you haven't subscribed to our channel yet, do it now, we'll keep you company and we'll learn Italian together.

I'll leave you with a proverb: *L'abito non fa il monaco!* What does it mean? Tell me in the comments!

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