

1.1

What's your name?

Come si chiama, lei?



ACTIVITY 1 is on the recording.

ACTIVITY 2

Say in which conversations the speakers are being informal.

DIALOGUE 1

○ Io sono Corrado. E tu – come ti chiami?

■ Mi chiamo Antonella.

○ Ciao, Anna. Come stai?

■ Bene, Elio. E tu?

○ Bene, bene.

■ Ciao, Elio!

○ Arrivederci, Anna.

▼ Buongiorno, Signora Colletta. Come sta?

● Bene, grazie, Signor Stefano – e lei?

▼ Abbastanza bene, grazie.

● Arrivederla!

► Buonasera. Sono Ernesto Prodi. Come si chiama?

♦ Marta Ferrante. Piacere.

VOCABULARY

buongiorno	hello, good morning, good afternoon
(io) sono	I am
come ti chiami?	what's your name? [<i>informal</i>]
(io) mi chiamo	my name is
arrivederci/la	goodbye [<i>informal</i>]/[<i>formal</i>]
ciao	hi, bye
come stai/sta?	how are you? [<i>informal</i>]/[<i>formal</i>]
bene	well, fine
e	and
tu/lei	you [<i>informal</i>]/[<i>formal</i>]
Signora/Signor	Mrs, Madam/Mr
grazie	thank you
abbastanza bene	quite well
buonasera	good evening, hello
piacere	pleased to meet you

✔ **Formal/ Informal address ('you')**

In Italian, you can address people in an informal way or **tu** form, used with young or familiar people and in a formal way or **lei** form. This takes the third person of the verb (the form used with he/she).

Come **stai (tu)**?/Come **sta (lei)**? How are you?

✔ **Regular verbs in -are (1)**

When you look up an Italian verb in the dictionary, you will always find it in the infinitive form. Infinitives end in **-are**, **-ere**, or **-ire**. These endings indicate how the other parts of the verb are formed.

To form the present tense (singular) of a verb ending in **-are**, the following endings are added to the stem (see Grammar Glossary):

lavorare – to work

(io) **lavoro** I work

(tu) **lavori** you work [*informal*]

(lui/lei; lei) **lavora** he/she works; you work [*formal*]

In Italian, subject pronouns are generally omitted (unless you want to place emphasis on them): the subject is shown in the verb ending. You may also see the formal 'you' written with a capital – **Lei**. In this course, the **lei** form has been used throughout.

chiamarsi ('to be called'), also a regular **-are** verb, is a reflexive verb. These verbs take a reflexive pronoun (roughly meaning 'myself', 'yourself', etc.) before the verb. (see Unit 6 and Grammar p 228).

Io **mi chiamo** Enzo. I'm called Enzo.

Come **si chiama** quella ragazza? What's that girl's name?

ACTIVITY 3

Find the right phrase for each of the following situations.

- 1 You're saying hello to a young person.
- 2 You're meeting your Italian host for the first time.
- 3 You're asking someone you've just met what his name is.
- 4 You're introducing yourself to a young woman and asking her name.
 - a Mi chiamo Angelo – e tu?
 - b Come si chiama?
 - c Buonasera, Signora Franchi.
 - d Ciao, Mario.



Now do activities 4 and 5 on the recording.