



Il ristorante

**di Daniel Stephens
e Stefania Zamagni**

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A simplified book for learners of Italian, published by OnlinetItalianClub.com

Level A1/2 (elementary)

(Listen to this story at: <https://soundcloud.com/onlineitalianclub/sets/il-ristorante>)

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Introduction

Though I'm a professional language teacher, I have to admit to being a terrible student. I have little patience, and lose interest quickly.

Therefore, I never took an Italian course, thinking that it would be a waste of time and money.

Instead, I learnt Italian by reading detective fiction, "gialli" (detective novels have yellow covers in Italy), which I used to buy from the newsagents.

But of course I didn't just pick up a novel and start reading, understanding everything (though if you already know Spanish or French, you probably could do, and get the general idea).

I began with simplified books, which were specially produced for learners and had a limited number of words and grammar structures.

Usually there was a cassette tape of the story to listen to (this was a long time ago), so I listened to the story first, following the text with my finger. That helped me get the general idea of what the story was all about, and ensured I got through to the end pretty quickly before I lost interest.

Then, maybe another day, I would re-read the text more slowly, trying to understand it better.

I'd always try NOT to use a dictionary. I found that really slowed me down, and I figured my objective was to create a habit of reading, rather than to learn the thousands of words I didn't yet know.

Finally, when I was ready, I would listen again, often several times. With, and later without, the text.

And when I was bored, I would go back to the bookshop to look for another simplified book. Maybe a level up.

15 years later, I'm proud to be publishing this simplified book for learners of Italian. It's a project I really believe in, and I hope that you'll find that reading this story will help you develop the confidence to read in Italian, as it did for me.

The truth is that if you read in Italian because you're interested in the story, and if you can make a habit of reading in Italian, you'll find the grammar and vocabulary of the language will come naturally to you.

Understanding the exact use of grammar and vocabulary has a lot to do with context. And reading provides context, lots of it.

Plus it's a lot less boring than poring over a grammar book.

Daniel Stephens

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Capitolo 1. Una nuova avventura in Italia

(Listen to this story at: <https://soundcloud.com/onlineitalianclub/sets/il-ristorante>)

Nick è un commercialista, ma ama cucinare.

Abita a Londra e vuole lasciare il suo lavoro per aprire un ristorante italiano.

Anche Charlotte, la fidanzata di Nick, è una commercialista.

Nick racconta a Charlotte che pensa di andare in Italia per sei mesi.

"Devo imparare l'italiano. E devo anche fare un corso di cucina italiana."

Charlotte invece desidera sposarsi, comprare una casa e avere dei figli. Insomma, vuole una famiglia.

Sicuramente non vuole aspettare sei mesi.

"Nick, se tu vai in Italia, per noi è finita, addio!"

Glossario

Commercialista (noun)= chartered accountant

Sposarsi (verb) = to get married

Lasciare il lavoro= to quit his job

Es. 1 Vero o falso?

- 1) Nick lavora in un ristorante italiano
- 2) Vuole trasferirsi in Italia
- 3) Parla già correttamente l'italiano
- 4) Charlotte è felice di trasferirsi in Italia
- 5) Charlotte vuole avere dei figli