

ITALIAN GRAMMAR UNLOCKED — SERIES

Italian Grammar Unlocked

Vol. 3 — Upper Intermediate Edition

Level B1 → B2

Reach upper-intermediate fluency. Master the full subjunctive, advanced conditionals, passive voice, reported speech, relative clauses, combined pronouns, and the register shifts that make Italian sound truly native — with clear explanations, rich tables, and graded exercises.

Vega Publishing | 2026

Book 3 of 3 · Continues from: Italian Grammar Unlocked Vol. 2 (A2–B1)

Italian Grammar Unlocked: Vol. 3 — Upper Intermediate Edition

Part of the Italian Grammar Unlocked series · Book 3 of 3

Copyright © 2026 Vega Publishing. All rights reserved.

First Edition. Published 2026. Kindle Edition.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means — including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods — without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Publisher: Vega Publishing

Series: Italian Grammar Unlocked · **Volume:** 3 of 3

Level: B1–B2 (CEFR) · **Language:** Italian (with English instruction)

Subject: Italian Language — Grammar — Self-Study & Classroom Use

CEFR level designations follow the framework established by the Council of Europe. Level assessments are approximate guides for self-study learners.



How to Use This Book

This is the third and final volume of the **Italian Grammar Unlocked** series, designed for learners who have completed B1 grammar or its equivalent. Each chapter builds directly on Vol. 2 foundations — look for the **Building on Vol. 2** boxes that connect new B2 material to what you already know.

- Work through the five blocks in order — later blocks assume earlier ones
- Block 1 (Chapters 1–5) is the most important: the subjunctive is the core of B2
- Do each exercise set before checking the Answer Key at the back
- Chapters marked **B2** are the most challenging — take your time
- Use the 200 Phrases section for real-life application and conversation practice

Consiglio — The four hardest topics for English speakers in this book are the **Congiuntivo** (Ch. 2–5), **Discorso Indiretto** (Ch. 18), **Double Pronouns** (Ch. 11), and **Register Shifts** (Ch. 21). Budget extra time for those chapters.

Series recap at a glance:

Vol. 1 — A1–A2: Articles, nouns, present tense, basic verbs, numbers, adjectives

Vol. 2 — A2–B1: All past tenses, future, conditional, object pronouns, subjunctive intro, gerund

Vol. 3 — B1–B2: Full subjunctive (all 4 forms), conditionals, passive, reported speech, advanced pronouns, register & style

BLOCK 1 · THE FULL SUBJUNCTIVE

Review & Bridge

Key B1 structures revisited — what changes at B2

B1 → B2

Before diving into B2 grammar, let's confirm your command of the structures that underpin everything at this level. This chapter reviews the six most important B1 foundations and explains precisely how each evolves at B2.

1. All Past Tenses (Vol. 2, Ch. 1–5)

Building on Vol. 2 — You can already use imperfetto, passato prossimo, trapassato prossimo, and passato remoto. At B2, you combine all four in complex narratives with multi-layer timelines.

*Stavo leggendo quando è arrivato
Marco, che aveva già cenato.*

I was reading when Marco arrived, who
had already had dinner.

2. Future & Conditional (Vol. 2, Ch. 6–10)

Building on Vol. 2 — You know futuro semplice, futuro anteriore, condizionale presente and passato. At B2, you combine them with the full subjunctive for advanced hypotheticals.

*Se avessi studiato, avresti superato
l'esame con lode.*

If you had studied, you would have
passed the exam with distinction.

3. Object Pronouns (Vol. 2, Ch. 11–15)

Building on Vol. 2 — You know direct, indirect, CI, and NE. At B2 you combine them into double pronouns (glielo, me lo, ce ne...) and handle advanced positional rules with modal verbs and infinitives.

4. The Subjunctive Intro (Vol. 2, Ch. 16–18)

Building on Vol. 2 — You've met congiuntivo presente after spero che, voglio che, è importante che. At B2, you master all four congiuntivo forms and use them automatically across the full trigger range.

5. Relative Pronouns (Vol. 2, Ch. 22)

Building on Vol. 2 — You know che and basic cui. At B2, you use il quale/la quale/i quali/le quali, ciò che, and produce complex relative clause structures inside long sentences.

6. Gerund & Passive (Vol. 2, Ch. 21 & 24)

Building on Vol. 2 — You know stare + gerundio and essere + participio passato. At B2 you use venire + participio for the passive and manage all gerund constructions including the implicit subject rule.

B2 Readiness Checklist

Structure	Covered in Vol. 2	B2 Evolution in Vol. 3
All past tenses	Ch. 1–5	Multi-layer narrative timelines
Future + conditional	Ch. 6–10	Full 4-type se-clause system
All pronouns	Ch. 11–15	Double pronouns, advanced position
Subjunctive intro	Ch. 16–18	All 4 congiuntivo forms + full triggers
Passive + si passivante	Ch. 21	Venire/andare + participio, impersonal si
Relative pronouns	Ch. 22	Il quale, ciò che, complex relatives
Gerund + causative	Ch. 24	All gerund types + infinitive governance

EXERCISES — CHAPTER 1

A. Choose the correct tense:

1. Mentre (stavo leggendo / ho letto), il telefono (squillava / è squillato) improvvisamente.
2. Prima che tu (parta / parti), devo dirti una cosa importante.
3. Il libro che mi (hai dato / davi) la settimana scorsa è straordinario.
4. Se (avessi / avevo) più coraggio, le (direi / dico) la verità domani.

B. Translate using appropriate B1 structures:

1. She would have come if she had known about the party.
2. While we were eating, the lights went out and everything changed.
3. I need a book that explains this grammar clearly. (cerco qualcuno che...)

Congiuntivo Presente

Formation, triggers, and the same-subject rule

B2

The **congiuntivo presente** expresses subjectivity about present or future events — doubt, emotion, desire, opinion, uncertainty. It is the essential hallmark of B2 Italian.

Formation — Regular Verbs

Subject	parlare	scrivere	dormire	finire
<i>io</i>	parli	scriva	dorma	finisca
<i>tu</i>	parli	scriva	dorma	finisca
<i>lui/lei</i>	parli	scriva	dorma	finisca
<i>noi</i>	parliamo	scriviamo	dormiamo	finiamo
<i>voi</i>	parliate	scrivate	dormiate	finiate
<i>loro</i>	parlino	scrivano	dormano	finiscano

Attenzione! — The *io/tu/lui/lei* forms are identical for all verbs. Use subject pronouns or context to clarify meaning: *Spero che lei parli* vs *Spero che tu parli*.

Key Irregular Congiuntivo Presente

Verb	io/tu/lui	noi	voi	loro
<i>essere</i>	sia	siamo	siate	siano
<i>avere</i>	abbia	abbiamo	abbiate	abbiano
<i>fare</i>	faccia	facciamo	facciate	facciano
<i>andare</i>	vada	andiamo	andiate	vadano
<i>venire</i>	venga	veniamo	veniate	vengano
<i>sapere</i>	sappia	sappiamo	sappiate	sappiano
<i>dovere</i>	debba	dobbiamo	dobbiate	debbano
<i>potere</i>	possa	possiamo	possiate	possano
<i>volere</i>	voglia	vogliamo	vogliate	vogliano
<i>dire</i>	dica	diciamo	diciate	dicano
<i>uscire</i>	esca	usciamo	usciate	escano
<i>stare</i>	stia	stiamo	stiate	stiano
<i>dare</i>	dia	diamo	diate	diano

Complete Trigger List – When to Use the Subjunctive

Category	Key Expressions	Example
Doubt / disbelief	dubitare che, non essere sicuro che, non credere che	<i>Dubito che venga.</i>
Emotion	essere felice/triste che, dispiacersi che, avere paura che, sperare che, temere che	<i>Ho paura che piova.</i>

Wish / desire	volere che, desiderare che, preferire che, chiedere che	<i>Voglio che tu parli.</i>
Opinion	pensare che, credere che, sembrare che, ritenere che	<i>Credo che abbia ragione.</i>
Impersonal expressions	è importante/necessario/possibile/impossibile/strano/bene che	<i>È strano che non risponda.</i>
Concessive conjunctions	benché, sebbene, nonostante (che), quantunque, malgrado	<i>Benché sia stanco, lavora.</i>
Purpose	affinché, perché (+ subjunctive), in modo che	<i>Parlo lentamente perché tu capisca.</i>
Temporal — before	prima che	<i>Chiama prima che parta.</i>
Condition	a meno che (non), purché, a condizione che, nel caso in cui	<i>Vengo, purché ci sia Marco.</i>
Indefinite antecedent	cercare qualcuno/qualcosa che, non c'è nessuno che	<i>Cerco qualcuno che sappia il russo.</i>

Consiglio — Same-subject rule: when both verbs have the **same subject**, use the infinitive, NOT the subjunctive. *Voglio partire.* (I want to leave.) When

subjects differ: *Voglio che tu parta.* (I want you to leave.)

EXAMPLES

<i>Spero che Marco stia bene.</i>	I hope Marco is well.
<i>È impossibile che lui lo sappia già.</i>	It's impossible that he already knows it.
<i>Benché piova, usciamo lo stesso.</i>	Although it's raining, we're going out anyway.
<i>Ti lascio il numero affinché tu possa chiamarmi.</i>	I'll leave you my number so (that) you can call me.
<i>Cerco un appartamento che costi meno di mille euro.</i>	I'm looking for a flat that costs less than a thousand euros.
<i>Chiama prima che sia troppo tardi.</i>	Call before it's too late.

EXERCISES — CHAPTER 2

A. Conjugate in the congiuntivo presente:

1. Spero che tu ____ (venire) alla festa stasera.
2. È necessario che lei ____ (finire) il rapporto entro venerdì.
3. Credo che Marco ____ (avere) ragione su questo punto.
4. Benché il problema ____ (essere) difficile, troveremo una soluzione.
5. Voglio che voi ____ (sapere) la verità.
6. La direttrice desidera che noi ____ (arrivare) puntuali.

B. Infinitive or subjunctive? Complete correctly:

1. Voglio ____ (partire) subito. / Voglio che tu ____ (partire) subito.
2. Spero ____ (trovare) lavoro presto. / Spero che lui ____ (trovare) lavoro presto.
3. Preferisco ____ (stare) qui. / Preferisco che voi ____ (stare) qui.

C. Translate:

1. Although she is tired, she continues to work.
2. I'm looking for someone who speaks Italian and French fluently.
3. It's strange that he hasn't replied yet.
4. I'll explain everything so that you understand the situation.