



Prima di leggere Ask students how they greet people in a variety of social settings. Are there any differences between age groups or locations? What is their initial impression of how Italians (or Europeans) greet each other?

IN PRIMO PIANO

Baci dall'Italia!



Friends and family in Italy traditionally give each other a kiss (**un bacio**) on each cheek when they say hello and good-bye. The first **bacio** always goes on the left cheek, followed by the right, so you should lean to your right when you greet someone in this way.

To give an Italian-style kiss, press your cheek against the other person's and make a kissing sound. There may or may not be contact between your lips and the person's cheek. These kisses are often accompanied by a hand on the other person's shoulder or shoulders; a greater amount of contact indicates a closer personal connection with the person you are greeting. Young adults often give three kisses to their close friends, accompanied by a hug.

Greeting friends with a kiss is common among women, while men customarily greet each other with a handshake (**una stretta di mano**). Men who are related or are very close friends may exchange kisses if they haven't seen each other in a long time, or on a special occasion. In a business setting, colleagues (both men and women) shake hands. The Italian handshake is firm, with one or two quick shakes up and down.

There are slight variations on these traditions from person to person and region to region. For example, kissing is more prevalent in the southern part of Italy, where men are also more likely to greet one another with a kiss. This may all seem confusing but, when in doubt, simply follow the lead of the person you are greeting!



Un piccolo aiuto

When greeting someone considerably older than you or someone in a position of authority, you should always address him/her with the formal Lei form. You should wait for that person to suggest that the informal tu be used. (Diamoci del tu?)

ATTIVITÀ

1 Vero o falso? Indicate whether each statement is **vero** or **falso**. Correct any false statements.

- Men in the south of Italy never greet each other with a kiss. **Falso.** They often kiss.
- In Italy, work colleagues usually shake hands. **Vero.**
- Two women who are friends may greet each other with a kiss. **Vero.**
- Placing a hand on someone's shoulder is considered disrespectful. **Falso.** A greater amount of contact indicates a closer personal connection.
- Most young Italians kiss four times. **Falso.** They kiss three times.

- The Italian handshake is firm and quick. **Vero.**
- Men always shake hands when they greet each other. **Falso.** Close friends or relatives sometimes kiss.
- Italians give the first kiss on the right cheek. **Falso.** The first kiss is on the left cheek.
- Italians kiss both when saying hello and good-bye. **Vero.**
- Kisses are usually accompanied by a kissing sound. **Vero.**

Practice more at sentieri.vhcentral.com.

Costumi e usanze Point out that when addressing a man with his professional title and name, the final **-e** is dropped from **signore, professore, dottore, and ingegnere: signor Martini, dottor Ghezzi.**

Ritratto Bring in pictures from **Carnevale** with the traditional costumes of the **commedia dell'arte** or show photos from the Internet.

L'ITALIANO QUOTIDIANO

I saluti

Alla prossima!	Until next time!
Buon fine settimana!	Have a nice weekend!
Che c'è di nuovo?	What's new?
Ci sentiamo!	Talk to you soon!
Ci vediamo!	See you soon!
Come te la passi?	How are you getting along?
Ehilà!	Hey there!
La solita cosa.	The usual.
Niente di nuovo.	Nothing new.

COSTUMI E USANZE

Buongiorno, professoressa!

Italians tend to be very formal in their greetings, usually addressing each other with their social titles (**signore, signora, signorina**) or professional titles (**professore, professoressa, dottore, dottoressa, ingegnere^o, avvocato^o**).

Greetings vary according to the time of day and whether you are saying hello or good-bye. For example, **buongiorno** is used to say hello during the early part of the day, but if you say **buona giornata**, you are wishing someone a good day as you say good-bye. Later in the afternoon (how late in the afternoon varies considerably from region to region), Italians use **buonasera** to say hello. **Buonanotte** is used only to say good-bye at nighttime; otherwise you should use **arrivederci** or **arrivederLa**. In an informal situation, **ciao** is all you need for hello and good-bye!

Ingegnere engineer avvocato lawyer

end of night

RITRATTO

I personaggi della commedia dell'arte

La **commedia dell'arte** is a form of improvisational theater based on common themes of life, such as love, jealousy, and poverty. Originating in the 16th century in northern Italy, this form of theater was performed in the streets by troupes of actors who portrayed a cast of standard characters representing typical human traits, each with its own unique costume. The long list of characters represents different regions and cities in Italy. Many of them inspired the traditional masks of **Carnevale** in **Venezia**. Among the most popular characters are **Arlecchino** (Harlequin), a servant whose clown-like costume is comprised of a colorful diamond pattern; **Colombina**, Arlecchino's love interest who doesn't reciprocate but pokes fun at him; **Pantalone**, a wealthy miser who speaks in Venetian dialect and wears a red vest, a black cloak, and a mask with a hooked nose; and **il Dottore**, the wine-loving doctor from **Bologna** who wears long black academic robes and a short black mask.



SU INTERNET



What are the personalities and outfits of some characters in the commedia dell'arte?

Go to [sentieri.vhlocentral.com](http://www.sentieri.vhlocentral.com) to find more information related to this CULTURA.

2 Hai capito? Answer these questions.

- At what time of day would you say **buonanotte**? at night
- What title would you use to address your female doctor? dottoressa
- How would you tell someone to have a nice day? Buona giornata.
- Which **commedia dell'arte** character speaks in Venetian dialect? Pantalone
- Who is in love with **Colombina**? Arlecchino

3 A voi With a partner, practice meeting and greeting people in the following situations. Answers will vary.



- You arrive at your professor's office at five o'clock in the afternoon.
- You meet a group of friends outside the library.
- Your Italian roommate introduces you to a good friend.



3 Expansion Have students make up short dialogues using the expressions they have learned so far and incorporating as many of these new greetings as possible.