Italian Basics

Class objective: I will be able to understand the basics of Italian language.

Concept A: Introduction to Italian language.

- Understanding Italian has a knock-on effect when starting to learn any other Romance languages like Spanish, Italian, French and Romanian. Knowledge of one makes it much easier to pick up any of the others, since they all evolved from Latin and still share grammar and syntax, and have lots of similar vocabulary.
- There are more than 66 million people who speak Italian worldwide.
- The word 'America' comes from Italian.
- Over 700,000 Americans speak Italian.
- Italian is considered one of the closest languages to Latin. This is because Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire and was used until the empire's dissolution in the 6th Century, when vulgar versions replaced it and started to develop into the Romance languages we know. Latin is also the official language of the Catholic Church and of the Vatican City.

Concept B: Introduction to Alphabets and Vowels.

• Italian alphabet o l'alfabeto, consists of 21 letters. Italian is derived from Latin language as is the English alphabet. Letters 'J, K, W, X e Y' are missing from the Italian alphabet. That happens because they only appear in foreign words. • Le vocali or the vowels, in Italian we have 5 vowels like English 'A,E,I,O and U', in further lines we will learn 'come si pronuncia le vocali italiane' that means how to pronounce Italian vowels.

Concept C: L'alfabeto e le vocali

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