
Zollo, Mike and Alan Wesson. ***Interactive Italian Grammar.***

New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005. ISBN: 0-07-146092-6.

This slightly larger than pocket-size reference book represents an invaluable resource for anyone wanting a solid foundation in the Italian language. Simple patterns replace lengthy grammatical explanations, allowing learners to move at their own pace.

Although the book does not have a specific target audience, it is a useful resource at any level; it would be as valuable to students needing to review grammar as it would to travelers wanting to quickly learn the basics.

The book has seven concise chapters: Verbs; Nouns and Determiners; Pronouns; Adjectives; Adverbs; Prepositions; and Conjunctions and Other Useful Words. Sections are organized according to an intuitive progression, and easy cross-reference is provided throughout. The use of cognates allows learners to expand their vocabulary effortlessly. Shortcuts are indicated by the icon ►► to allow the learner to focus on the precise concept that needs to be learned or reviewed. In each section, there are tables that show English words and their Italian equivalents, allowing for an immediate understanding of the concept and a thorough review. Highlighted boxes with light bulbs contain information blurbs or practice tips directly related to the material previously presented. Attention is also given to the spoken language, specifically to intonation and accents. The complexity of the verb tenses in Italian is easily managed in the same way using tables of comparison.

Many useful examples are given pertaining to practical situations, thereby allowing readers to immerse themselves in Italian culture. The written exercises include fill-in-the blank, matching, and sentence completion. “Fast track” is the short summary presented at the end of each chapter, providing a review of the concepts learned in the current chapter.

An interactive CD-ROM accompanies the text, containing exercises taken from the text recorded by native speakers. For additional clarification, English translations are just a click away, providing immediate feedback.

Interactive Italian Grammar is a valuable resource for anyone wanting an accessible resource on the mechanics of the Italian language. Overall, we would rate this text very high for its versatility, compactness, and succinctness.

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Publisher's Response

McGraw-Hill thanks Dr. Carlucci and Professor Paoletti for their review of *Interactive Italian Grammar Made Easy*. Their appreciation of simple patterns, the inclusion of short cuts, the focus on spoken language, and inclusion of audio for native-speaker level pronunciation, as well as the the abundance of culture-rich example sentences, is most gratifying. As the reviewers point out, the benefit of immediate feedback on the CD-ROM makes this title particularly helpful for independent study. In addition, I am delighted to hear that the reviewer's class copies have received such thorough use.

Christopher Brown
Publisher, Language & Reference
McGraw-Hill Professional