

I want to help you improve your vocabulary ASAP, and there's no better way than to introduce you to "**good friends**."



It's easier if you become aware of the **categories and a few typical spelling changes**, and learn them along with a few **examples**. Then, when you're speaking or writing, and you need a new word, if it fits one of the categories, it will *probably* be a good friend. (We'll look at "false friends" another time.) - **TYPE** the (AmE) word into the spot...heads up for the spelling!!!

**Words ending in -ale in Italian usually end in -al in English, for example: speciale = special.**

commerciale = \_\_\_\_\_

culturale = \_\_\_\_\_

sociale = \_\_\_\_\_

(but *fraterno* = *fraternal*)



**Words that end in –are in Italian usually end in –ar in English, for example: similare = similar.**



familiare = \_\_\_\_\_

particolare = \_\_\_\_\_

popolare = \_\_\_\_\_

(but *salutare* = *salutary*)

**Words that end in -ario in Italian usually end in -ary in English, for example: diario = diary.**

dizionario = \_\_\_\_\_

segretario = \_\_\_\_\_

glossario = \_\_\_\_\_

(but *orario* = *hours*)



**Words that end in -ia in Italian usually end in -y in English, for example, psicologia = psychology.**



autonomia = \_\_\_\_\_

agenzia = \_\_\_\_\_

gastronomia = \_\_\_\_\_

gelosia = \_\_\_\_\_

**Words ending in –ibile in Italian usually end in –ible in English, for example: orribile = horrible.**

(in)divisibile = \_\_\_\_\_ abile = \_\_\_\_\_ (N.B., it's a bit tricky!)

(in)visible = \_\_\_\_\_ (il)leggibile = \_\_\_\_\_



**Words that end in –ico/a in Italian usually end in -ic(s) or -ical in English, for example, fisica = physics.**



musica = \_\_\_\_\_

etnico = \_\_\_\_\_

pratico = \_\_\_\_\_

(but: *paranoico* = *paranoiac*, adj & noun)

**Words that end in -ione in Italian usually end in -ion in English, for example: nazione = nation.**

religione = \_\_\_\_\_ stazione = \_\_\_\_\_

frustrazione = \_\_\_\_\_ (but: *cauzione* = judiciary deposit, bail, judiciary bond)



**Words that end in -ista in Italian usually end in -ist in English, for example: dentista = dentist.**



artista = \_\_\_\_\_

pianista = \_\_\_\_\_

igienista = \_\_\_\_\_

ottimista = \_\_\_\_\_

**Words ending in -ente/o or -ante in Italian usually end in -ent or -ant in English, for example: differente = different.**

intelligente = \_\_\_\_\_

paziente = \_\_\_\_\_ (noun & adj)

rilevante = \_\_\_\_\_

ristorante = \_\_\_\_\_



**Words ending in -etto in Italian often end in -ect in English, for example: (in)diretto = (in)direct.**



architetto = \_\_\_\_\_

(im)perfetto = \_\_\_\_\_

rispetto = \_\_\_\_\_

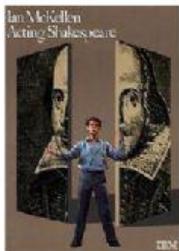
sospetto = \_\_\_\_\_ (noun & verb)

**Words that end in -ore in Italian usually end in -or\* in English, for example: professore = professor.**

attore = \_\_\_\_\_ conduttore = \_\_\_\_\_ (*in physics; otherwise, it's a False Friend*)

interiore = \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* esteriore = \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*[but also: *interno = interior*] \* in BrE, some words can end in -our or in -or



**Words ending in -oso usually end in -ous in English, for example: religioso = religious.**



amoroso = \_\_\_\_\_

delizioso = \_\_\_\_\_

gravoso = \_\_\_\_\_

prezioso = \_\_\_\_\_

**Words that end in -tà in Italian usually end in -ty in English, for example: università = university.**

(ir)regolarità = \_\_\_\_\_ città = \_\_\_\_\_

(a)normalità = \_\_\_\_\_ (in)formalità = \_\_\_\_\_



**Words ending in –uro/-ura in Italian usually end in –ure in English, for example: maturo = mature.**



futuro = \_\_\_\_\_ caricatura = \_\_\_\_\_

struttura = \_\_\_\_\_ letteratura = \_\_\_\_\_

**Words that end in -za in Italian usually end in -ce in English, for example: importanza = importance (eccezione: ugualanza – equality)**

fragranza = \_\_\_\_\_ (but *romanza* / *romanzo* = novel)

innocenza = \_\_\_\_\_ (but *emergenza* = emergency)



**The names of the months are quite similar:**



gennaio = \_\_\_\_\_ febbraio = \_\_\_\_\_ marzo = \_\_\_\_\_

aprile = \_\_\_\_\_ maggio = \_\_\_\_\_ giugno = \_\_\_\_\_

luglio = \_\_\_\_\_ agosto = \_\_\_\_\_ settembre = \_\_\_\_\_

ottobre = \_\_\_\_\_ novembre = \_\_\_\_\_ dicembre = \_\_\_\_\_

**Finally, words that came into Italian and English from Greek are similar, for example: telefono = telephone.**

dramma = \_\_\_\_\_ pianeta = \_\_\_\_\_ telegrafo = \_\_\_\_\_

televisione = \_\_\_\_\_ commedia = \_\_\_\_\_ fotografo = \_\_\_\_\_

fotografia = \_\_\_\_\_ programma = \_\_\_\_\_ [AmE] (but: BrE: programme)



So, together with Star you've discovered some "**Good Friends**" to help you double your vocabulary, immediately, yay!

Don't forget Star's other hint for speaking more confidently and fluently, quickly ... be a **PIRATE!** "Steal" words, phrases, and verb tenses from the person with whom you are speaking! *For example*, if they use the present perfect in a question to you, you can probably use the present perfect in your answer! ... "Hey, what've you done, today?" – "Oh, I haven't done much, and you?" ... It's ~~a~~ **lazy** an easy way to speak better, quickly!



**IMAGES:** All images are Clipart from within the Microsoft Word program used to make this document.