

# Italian

This is a guide for you as an Italian speaker as you go through the Pronunciation Pro Course.

To get the most out of your membership, follow the Pronunciation Pro Course module by module and add any necessary bonus lessons.

Lessons that may be omitted from the 12-module course for Italian speakers include:

- Module 3: Initial, Medial, & Final /L/ & /N/
- However, please still review the Word Stress lesson from Module 3

## COMMON ERRORS

Below you will find some common error sounds and patterns specifically for Italian speakers. These common errors can help you better understand your own speech patterns and areas to focus on as you improve your English pronunciation and fluency.

You might not have issues with all of these sounds. If you would like a more customized assessment of your speech, please contact us for a Full Accent Assessment from our certified American Trainers.

## VOWELS

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERRORS	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/er/ (word)	Error patterns vary	Module 4 – R-vowels
/I/ (fine)	Second sound in this diphthong may be too strong	Module 5
/O/ (go)	Confused with /o/ (hot)	Module 5
/i/ (sit)	Confused with /ee/ (we)	Module 6
/a/ (hat)	Confused with /e/ (yes) or /o/ (hot)	Module 7
/u/ (cup)	Confused with /o/ (hot) or /a/ (hat)	Module 7
/e/ (yes)	Confused with /A/ (day)	Module 7
/ow/ (house)	Second sound of this diphthong may be too strong	Bonus Lesson - /ow/
/oy/ (boy)	Second sound of this diphthong may be too strong	Bonus Lesson – /oy/
/ooh/ (put, book)	Confused with /oo/ (too)	Bonus Lesson - /oo/ & /ooh/



## CONSONANTS

- Italian speakers have a tendency to pronounce words as they are spelled, which can cause a problem when there are silent letters in a word or when a letter makes more than one sound.
- An extra vowel sound is often added after final consonants. **(Module 1 – Final Voiced Consonants)**
- Groups of consonants can be difficult to pronounce. **(Module 8 – Tricky Consonant Blends)**

TARGET SOUND	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/z/ (zoo)	May be pronounced as /s/, especially in final word position	Module 1 – Final Voiced Consonants; Bonus Lesson - /s/ or /z/
/th/ (think)	May be pronounced as /t/	Module 2 - Voiceless /th/
/TH/ (this)	May be pronounced as /d/	Module 2 - Voiced /TH/
/r/ (rare)	Tapped or trilled/rolled.	Module 4 - R, R-blends, R-vowels
/h/ (how)	Omitted or put in the wrong place	Bonus Lessons - /h/
/p/, /t/, & /k/	Not aspirated in initial word position, making them sound like their voiced counterparts (/b/, /d/, & /g/ respectively)	Bonus Lessons /p/ & /p/, /t/, /k/
/zh/ (vision)	Pronounced as /dg/ (joke), /sh/ (shoe), or /zy/	Bonus Lesson - /zh/
/y/ (yet)	Sometimes confused with /dg/ (joke)	Bonus Lesson - /y/
/s/ (sun)	Pronounced as /z/ before /l/, /m/, and /n/	Bonus Lesson – S-blends
“ing” (ring)	An extra /g/ sound may be added (/ng-g/), or may be confused with /n/	Bonus Lesson – “ing”
/w/	Confused with /v/	Bonus Lessons - /w/, /v/ & /w/

## STRESS, INTONATION, RHYTHM

All syllables may be stressed equally; vowels in unstressed syllables are not reduced. **(Module 3 - Word Stress)**

Intonation may sound choppy or restricted in pitch range. **(Module 5 – Intonation)**

