



Piazza della Grammatica 1 • Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards, Presentatori e Capocomici

Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,

Here's a transcript of "For Best Results," our recent show focusing on the "**noi**" and "**voi**" forms of the **imperative mood** and the use of **object pronouns** with the imperative. You can hear this podcast by clicking on the following link: <https://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode/ep10.html>

Buon divertimento!

Ha partecipato (Featured in this podcast):

Esmeralda Moscatelli

*Colombina*

### **Transcript: Acqua Minerale Pansellegrino**

**Dottore:** **Eccoci** nel centro di Roma, Città Eterna... in estate Città Eternamente Calda. Il sole spietato batte la fronte di tutti coloro che osano passeggiare a mezzogiorno... Turisti! Turisti americani, tedeschi, cinesi, persino italiani!

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Avete visitato il Vittoriano?  
Avete ammirato il Foro Romano?

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Siete andati ai Musei Vaticani?  
Avete messo la mano nella Bocca della Verità?

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Avete camminato da Piazza Navona fino alla Fontana di Trevi?

**Dottore:** **Here we are** in the center of Rome, Eternal City... in the summer, Eternally Hot City. The merciless sun beats upon the foreheads of everyone who dares to stroll about at noon... Tourists! American, German, Chinese, even Italian tourists!

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you visited the Vittoriano monument? Have you admired the Roman Forum?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you gone to the Vatican Museums? Have you put your hand in the Mouth of Truth?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you walked from Piazza Navona to the Trevi Fountain?

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Avete salito la scalinata in Piazza di Spagna?

**The Tourists:** Oh, sì!

**Dottore:** Siete stanchi?

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Colombina:** **Riposiamoci!**

**Dottore:** Sentite il caldo dell'estate romana?

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Colombina:** **Rinfreschiamoci!**

**Dottore:** Avete sete?

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Colombina:** **Beviamo!**

**Dottore:** Bravi! **Bevete**, sì! **Venite, venite...**

**Colombina:** **Andiamo!**

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Dottore:** **Assaggiate** l'acqua Pansellegrino! L'acqua più deliziosa, più rinfrescante, più dolce di tutte le acque minerali del Bel Paese!

**Colombina:** **Assaggiamola!**

**The Tourists:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Pulcinella, **aiutami** ad aprire le bottiglie e a versare quest'acqua frizzante! **Vedete! Sentite!** Quanto è effervescente!

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you climbed the Spanish Steps?

**The Tourists:** Oh, yes!

**Dottore:** Are you tired?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Colombina:** Let's rest!

**Dottore:** Do you feel the heat of the Roman summer?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Colombina:** Let us refresh ourselves!

**Dottore:** Are you thirsty?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Colombina:** Let's drink!

**Dottore:** Fine! **Drink**, yes! **Come, Come...**

**Colombina:** Let's go!

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Try Pansellegrino water! The most delicious, most refreshing, sweetest mineral water of the *Bel Paese*!

**Colombina:** Let's try it!

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Pulcinella, **help me** open the bottles and pour this sparkling water! **See! Hear!** How effervescent it is! **Sip it!**

## **Sorseggiatela!**

**Colombina: Assaporiamola!**

**Colombina: Let's savor it!**

**The Tourists: Sì!**

**The Tourists: Yes!**

**Dottore: Senti**, Pulcinella, è meglio non -- Pulcinella, mi raccomando, **non fare** così con la bottiglia!

**Dottore: Listen**, Pulcinella, it's better not to -- Pulcinella, I beg you, **don't do** that with the bottle!

**The Tourists: Ah!**

**The Tourists: Ah!**

**Colombina: Proteggiamoci!**

**Colombina: Let's protect ourselves!**

**Dottore: Pulcinella!**

**Dottore: Pulcinella!**

**Colombina: Andiamo** via!

**Colombina: Let's get out of here!**

**The Tourists: Sì!**

**The Tourists: Yes!**

**Dottore:** Dobbiamo avvertire che i migliori risultati si ottengono quando non si agitano le bottiglie prima di aprirle...

**Dottore:** We must advise that the best results are obtained when the bottles are not shaken before opening them...

**Colombina: Cerchiamo** degli asciugamani!

**Colombina: Let's look for** some towels!

**The Tourists: Sì!**

**The Tourists: Yes!**

**Dottore: Ricordate**, amici... è il vostro amico il Dottor Balanzone che vi raccomanda Acqua Pansellgrino... gassata - e come!

**Dottore: Remember**, friends... it's your friend Dottor Balanzone who recommends Acqua Pansellegrino to you... fizzy -- and how!

## **Transcript: una telefonata dal Colosseo**

## **Transcript: a phone call from the Coliseum**

**Antonella: Ciao, Eric!**

**Antonella: Ciao, Eric!**

**Eric: Antonella! Ciao, come stai?**

**Eric: Antonella! Ciao, How are you?**

**Antonella: Bene, bene... Va ora in onda Radio Arlecchino?**

**Antonella: Fine, fine... Is Radio Arlecchino on the air?**

**Eric:** Va in onda, sì! E tu, dove ti trovi oggi?

**Antonella:** Siamo qui all'Anfiteatro Flavio... Lo conosci?

**Eric:** Ma chi non lo conosce, anche se solo dalle foto...

**Antonella:** Ah-hah... e cioè...?

**Eric:** Il Colosseo, certo...

**Antonella:** Bravo! Sì, **eccoci** tutti, io, gli studenti, la guida...

**Eric:** E hai chiacchierato con qualche Gatto-Imperatore?

**Antonella:** Non ancora, però, proprio adesso mi sta intrattenendo un Gladiatore!

**Eric:** Solo uno?

**Antonella:** A dire il vero ce ne sono tanti nei paraggi...

**Eric:** Mi auguro che gli studenti ti facciano qualche foto...

**Antonella:** Questa è l'idea!

**Eric:** Dopo ne sceglieremo una da mettere insieme a quelle di Nanni e Johnny...

**Antonella:** Perfetto! **Senti**, ora ti saluto, adesso andiamo al Palatino...

**Eric:** Va bene... **salutami** Biceps Gloriosus... e buona passeggiata...

**Antonella:** Grazie, a presto, Eric...

**Eric:** A presto e....?

**Eric:** Oh yes, it's on the air! And you, where are you today?

**Antonella:** We're here at the Flavian Amphitheatre. Do you know it?

**Eric:** Why who doesn't know it, even if only from photographs...

**Antonella:** Ah-hah... and that is...?

**Eric:** The Coliseum, of course...

**Antonella:** Bravo! Yes, **here we are**, all of us, me, the students, the guide...

**Eric:** And have you chatted with some Cat-Emperors?

**Antonella:** Not yet; however, right now a gladiator is entertaining me!

**Eric:** Just one?

**Antonella:** To tell the truth there are quite a few of them around here...

**Eric:** I hope the students are taking some pictures of you...

**Antonella:** That's the idea!

**Eric:** Later we'll pick one of them to put with Nanni and Johnny's...

**Antonella:** Perfect! **Listen**, I'm saying good-bye to you, we're going to the Palatine now...

**Eric:** All right, say hello to Biceps Gloriosus for me... and have a nice stroll...

**Antonella:** Thanks, see you soon, Eric...

**Eric:** See you soon and....?

**Antonella:** Arisentirci!

**Antonella:** Arisentirci!

## Nota Grammaticale

By now the "**noi**" and "**voi**" forms of the **imperative** should hold no mysteries for you: they're identical to the **present indicative**, and **negative commands** are made simply by placing a "**non**" in front of these **imperative forms**. (Remember that the pdf file for Episode 8 has complete tables of the imperative forms for the three conjugations of verbs.)

You've also been seeing, ever since Episode 8 when we began our discussion of the **imperative**, **object pronouns** being used with this verb form. And by now you could probably summarize the general rules for the use of pronouns with the imperative all by yourself:

**Object pronouns are attached to the end of the imperative.** The exception, once again, is the formal, or third-person, imperative, which is really the present subjunctive. Object pronouns always come in their usual place in front of verbs in the subjunctive, even when the subjunctive is being used as the formal imperative.

*Talk to me about the imperative!*

informal singular

**Parlami dell'imperativo!**

formal singular

**Mi parli dell'imperativo!**

informal plural

**Parlatemi dell'imperativo!**

formal plural

**Mi parlino dell'imperativo!**

**When there are two object pronouns, both are attached to the end of the imperative and the indirect object pronoun will always be the first of the two.** If the difference between direct- and indirect-object pronouns is problematic for you, *pazienza!* We take up the subject of pronouns in our next episode!

*There are two newspapers on the table. Bring them to me!*

**Ci sono due giornali sul tavolo...**

informal singular

**Portameli!**

formal singular

**Me li porti!**

informal plural

**Portatemeli!**

formal plural

**Me li portino!**

**A special word about pronouns with monosyllabic imperatives.** You will remember that the second-person singular imperative of the verbs *andare*, *dare*, *dire*, *fare*, and *stare* is a one-syllable contracted form of the present indicative. When a pronoun is attached to one of these

forms, you always use the contracted form (not the form that ends in –i) and you double the initial consonant of the pronoun. The exception is *gli* – you never double the initial –g.

**Andare: va!** This verb doesn't really take direct or indirect objects, but it is very often used with the particle *ci* ("to that place, there"), which behaves just like a pronoun in terms of its placement in relation to a verb. So:

*Go there!*  
**Vacci!**

and the others...

<b>da + mi = dammi</b>	<b>fa + mi = fammi</b>	<i>and so on...</i>
ti = datti	ti = fatti	
gli = dagli	gli = fagli	
le = dalle	le = falle	
ci = dacci	ci = facci	

Examples:

*Give us a hand!*  
**Dacci** una mano!

*Don't be a stranger! ("Make yourself alive")*  
**Fatti** vivo!

*Tell her everything!*  
**Dille** tutto!

*Stay close to me!*  
**Stammi** vicino!

**Pronoun placement with negative commands is flexible.** When the imperative is negative, pronouns can go in front of the verb (and after the *non*) or be attached to the end of the imperative form -- EXCEPT with the formal imperative, of course. Object pronouns always come in their usual place in front of verbs in the subjunctive, even when the subjunctive is being used as the formal imperative--whether the command is affirmative or negative.

*The imperative? Don't talk to me about it any more!*  
**L'imperativo?...**

informal singular  
**Non parlarmene più!**  
**Non me ne parlare più!**

formal singular  
**Non me ne parli più!**  
*only possible configuration*

informal plural  
**Non parlatemene più!**  
**Non me ne parlate più!**

formal plural  
**Non me ne parlino più!**  
*only possible configuration*

**Pronouns with the "noi" form of the imperative.** This is relatively straightforward, as it follows the pattern seen in all the above examples and the informal/formal distinction is not an issue.

*Here's Colombina. Should we talk to her about the imperative?*

**Ecco Colombina. Dobbiamo parlarle dell'imperativo?**

Affirmative: *Let's talk to her about it!*

**Parliamogliene!**

Negative: *Let's not talk to her about it any more!*

**Non parliamogliene più!**

**Non gliene parliamo più!**

Again, if these forms of the pronouns are not entirely clear to you, please be sure to follow our discussion of pronouns beginning with our next episode!

**Behold the wonder of *ecco*!**

You probably have noticed the word "**ecco**" in our dialogues and commercials with pronouns attached to it. Even though this word is not, technically speaking, an imperative form of a verb, it behaves like one in terms of pronoun placement. This makes perfect sense if you think of "**ecco**" as meaning "**behold!**" (look here!), which it does. Of course it has no negative form and is informal as far as pronoun placement is concerned.

--Where is Dottor Balanzone?

--Here he is! (*Behold him!*)

--Dov'è il Dottor Balanzone?

--**Eccolo!**

## **Nota Culturale**

### **Le bibite preferite degli italiani - Favorite beverages of the Italians**

If you visit Italy you may find a little overwhelming the number of different brands of Italian waters available. From the very trendy and lightly bubbled San Pellegrino (please, if you are about to order a bottle of it call it 'San Pellegrino' and not 'Pellegrino' as many Americans erroneously do) to the plain Acqua Panna, the love for waters in Italy goes hand in hand with the love for food. Although several multinational corporations, Nestlé for example, have bought up some of the most famous brand names, the springs are undoubtedly located in Italy so we still consider them a national treasure.

Every region has its own favorite water and many of the springs have been well known since Roman times. In many Italian cities, though, the best water comes free. In Rome, for example, beyond the monumental fountains there are approximately 2500 *fontanelle* from which the water flows day and night. They are called *nasoni*, cylinders of metal (cast iron or iron) from which the water flows through an arched steel tube that, to the Romans, suggests a nose, hence the name.

Water aside, a long tradition of non-alcoholic beverages is well established in Italy and every region has its own traditional and most famous beverages. The most famous drinks are *chinotto* (extracted from a citrus type of plant, it may be bitter tasting but it is worth trying. If you explore the web you will be surprised to find many *chinotto* fan clubs), *gassosa* (a mix of water-sugar-carbonation that has a quite large audience in Rome), *oransoda* (extracted from oranges and lightly sparkling), *lemonsoda* and *limonata* (extracted from lemons, with and without bubbles), *latte di mandorle* (a special milk extracted from almonds and diluted with water. It is especially famous in the southern part of Italy. Sicily is the largest producer of almonds in Italy.) *Crodino* is a bitter-sweet tasting non-alcoholic aperitif that you consume with salted nuts and chips, and there are *succhi di frutta* (fruit juices in all forms and shapes), and of course *caffè* (yes, it is considered a beverage for us!).

Coca-Cola? No thanks!

### Monumenti romani

‘*Ave Cesare, morituri te salutant*’  
(Hail, Caesar, those who are about to die salute you).

The beginning of any gladiators’ fights was not encouraging since it was assumed that one of the two men engaged in the fight would die in the process or would be defeated and later killed. At the end of a fight, the loser would raise his arm to plead for mercy. This delicate decision was in the hands of the emperor or the presiding authority but normally they would let the spectators decide the fate of the gladiator. If the public liked the fight, they would yell ‘*mitte*’ (spare him) and they would accompany their voices with the upward movement of their thumb and their hand in a fist. But if they didn’t like the performance they would shout ‘*iugula*’ (cut his throat) and the thumb was turned down (*pollice verso*).

Despite all the legends surrounding the gladiators, it is worth remembering that many specialists in the field, historians and archeologists, do not agree on the level of violence, and especially death, linked to gladiatorial combat. Many claim that training a gladiator was such an expensive and long process that it would not be justified by such a sudden and fast death. But as Hollywood’s children, learning from Kirk Douglas as *Spartaco* to Russell Crowe as *Maximus*, we truly believe in what we see on the screen. Don’t we all?

The gladiators and Roman legionaries who hang out at the Coliseum today are neither specters nor feline incarnations; they are friendly, contemporary citizens whose historical costumes invite visitors, as the Dottore might say, to *Carpe occasionem photographae!* – “Seize the photo op!”

Most of the Roman monuments mentioned in this episode are familiar to just about everyone.

Not quite as well known is la Bocca della Verità, the Mouth of Truth., a marble disk adorned by the face of a river god that hangs in the portico of the church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin. Generally believed to be an ancient Roman drain cover, its legendary power is that of detecting the presence of liar when such a person inserts his or her hand into its mouth. This detection is



supposedly manifested by the mouth's biting off the liar's hand. A no-longer-new but very entertaining Hollywood film in which the Bocca della Verità is featured prominently in a delightful scene is *Roman Holiday* starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn.

Thanks for listening! And be sure to tell your friends that you heard it here on **Radio Arlecchino!**

Your hosts with the most – grammar,  
Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards  
“*Out of our minds ... into your ears*”