



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

Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,

Here's a transcript of *Adult Supervision Required*, our recent show on pronouns – specifically **subject pronouns** and **object pronouns**, both **direct** and **indirect**. You can hear this podcast by clicking on the following link: <https://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode/ep11.html>

Buon divertimento!

Hanno partecipato
Esmeralda Moscatelli
Christopher Gillette and Kelli X Gross

Featured in this broadcast:
Colombina
the Foreigners

Fuochi d'artificio *Gatto Nero*

Dottore: Eccoli, eccoli, eccoli... Venite a vederli... Signori e signore, bambini di tutte le età, venite... sentitemi... Partecipate alle feste di San Giovanni, di Capodanno, di Natale, a tutte le feste dell'anno... Qui ci sono i rumori più sbalorditivi, le luci più brillanti, i colori più stravaganti, il fumo più misterioso, qui ci sono... i fuochi d'artificio *Gatto Nero*!

Colombina: Dottore! **Lei** qui a Firenze! Che sorpresa Veder**La** qui! Ma che cos'è tutto questo?

Dottore: Sono i fuochi d'artificio *Gatto Nero*! Sono i migliori, i più belli... eccoci a Firenze, la festa del santo patrono, dovrei venderne tanti, ma **mi** pare che ci siano solo stranieri nei paraggi... Cosa dicono, mia cara?

“Gatto Nero” Fireworks

Dottore: Here they are, here they are, here they are... Come see them... Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages... come, hear me... Take part in the feasts of St John, of the New Year, of Christmas, all the holidays of the year... Here are the most astonishing sounds, the most brilliant lights, the most extravagant colors, the most mysterious smoke, here are... *Gatto Nero* Fireworks!

Colombina: Dottore! You here in Florence! What a surprise to see you here? But what is all this?

Dottore: It's *Gatto Nero* Fireworks! They're the best, the most beautiful... Here we are in Florence, the feast of the patron saint, I should be selling lots of them, but it seems to me there are only foreigners in the vicinity... What are they saying, my dear?

Colombina: Lui vuole sapere chi è, Dottore, e lei vuole sapere cosa vende...

Colombina: He wants to know who you are, Dottore, and she wants to know what you're selling...

Dottore: Oh, devono essere molto giovani se non mi riconoscono... Benvenuti a Firenze! Buona festa di San Giovanni! Ecco le candele magiche più scintillanti del mondo!

Dottore: Oh, they must be very young if they don't recognize me... Welcome to Florence! Happy St John's Day! Behold the most sparkling sparklers in the world!

Colombina: Lei ne vuole una dozzina di candele magiche, e lui vuole sapere se ha dei petardi...

Colombina: She wants a dozen of the sparklers and he wants to know if you have any firecrackers.

Dottore: Se ho dei petardi! Pulcinella, portami una scatola di petardi per il giovanotto... E per la signorina, queste meravigliose candele magiche "Gatto Nero", un balocco divertente per tutta la famiglia... Oh, Pulcinella sì lo conoscono... Eccoli eccoli eccoli! Signori e signore, bambini di tutte le età, venite... Sì, sì... i razzi "Gatto Nero" sono giustamente famosi in tutto il mondo! Osservate... Accendo ora la miccia... Colombina, per favore...

Dottore: If I have any firecrackers! Pulcinella, bring me a box of firecrackers for the young man... And for the young lady, these wonderful Gatto Nero sparklers, an amusing diversion for the whole family... Oh, Pulcinella, him they know... Here they are, here they are, here they are! Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages... Yes, yes, the Gatto Nero rockets are justly famous throughout the world! Observe... Now I light the fuse... Colombina, if you please...

Colombina: Ecco, Dottore

Colombina: There you are, Dottore.

Dottore: Grazie, mia cara... *Et nunc...* State per vedere qualcosa di veramente inverosimile....

Dottore: Thank you, my dear... *Et nunc* you are about to see something truly incredible...

Colombina: Oh! Lei senz'altro lo vedrà, Dottore!

Colombina: Oh! You certainly are going to see it, Dottore!

Dottore: Tre... due... uno... Fuoco! Meravigliatevi ora davanti all'incomparabile pirotecnica "Gatto Nero"!

Dottore: Three, two, one... Fire! Now be amazed before the incomparable pyrotechnics of Gatto Nero!

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Transcript: una telefonata da Antonella a Firenze

Antonella: Ciao, Eric!

Eric: Antonella! Ciao, come stai?

Antonella: Bene, bene...

Beato te! Ma qui a Firenze, è la festa del santo patrono: San Giovanni Battista!

Eric: Oh, molto più bello di una *pedicure*! E cosa farete?

Antonella: Cosa abbiamo fatto... Ricorda che qui siamo sette ore avanti! Comunque, abbiamo visto il Corteo -- tutti con costumi medievali, sventolamento di bandiere, odore di cera, musica...

Eric: Che pittoresco! Certo Firenze è tutta pittoresca! Immagino che tutti gli studenti siano rimasti strabiliati non solo dalle manifestazioni culturali ma anche dall'arte fiorentina...

Antonella: Ci siamo fatti una abbuffata di arte rinascimentale! È stupenda! Ma la festa non è finita con il corteo...

Eric: Oh no! Non mi dire che Pulcinella ha fatto un'altra frittata con quell'esplosivo peperoncino calabrese!

Antonella: Ma no, questi sono i fuochi d'artificio in onore di San Giovanni! **Li** stiamo ammirando dal magnifico Piazzale Michelangelo che sovrasta la città. Magari fossi qui con **noi**, Eric...

Eric: Magari... ma devo scappare ora...

A Phone Call from Antonella in Florence

Antonella: Hi, Eric!

Eric: Antonella! Hi, how are you?

Antonella: Fine, fine...

Lucky you! But here in Florence, it's the feast of their patron saint, St John the Baptist!

Eric: Oh, much nicer than a pedicure! And what will you do?

Antonella: What have we done...! Remember we're seven hours ahead of you here! Anyway, we've seen the procession-- everyone in medieval costumes, flagwaving, the scent of wax, music...

Eric: How picturesque! Of course Florence is all picturesque! I imagine all the students were amazed, not just by the cultural events but by the Florentine art...

Antonella: We've stuffed ourselves with renaissance art! It's stupendous! But the celebration didn't end with the procession...

Eric: Oh no! Don't tell me that Pulcinella made another frittata with that explosive Calabrese pepper!

Antonella: No, these are the fireworks in honor of St John! We're admiring them from the magnificent Piazzale Michelangelo that overlooks the city. If only you were here with us, Eric...

Eric: I wish... but I've got to go now...

Antonella: Buona pedichiurata!

Antonella: Happy pedicuring!

Eric: Felici fuochi! Ciao, a presto...

Eric: Happy fireworks! Ciao, talk to you again soon...

Antonella: Arisentirci!

Antonella: Until we talk again!

Nota Grammaticale

Pronouns: Introduction; Subject pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word we use to replace a noun, generally to avoid having to keep repeating a previously mentioned noun. The noun that a pronoun is replacing is called the **pronoun's antecedent**.

Since they replace nouns, they have the same grammatical functions that nouns have. A pronoun, then, can be the **subject** of a verb, the **direct** or the **indirect object** of a verb, or the **object of a preposition**.

There are two major issues involved with Italian pronouns: one is which pronoun to use, and the other is where to put the pronoun in relation to the verb.

Subject pronouns: pronomi soggetto

When a pronoun is the subject of a verb it is called a **subject pronoun**. Here they are:

io	I
tu	you (informal)
lui (egli), lei (ella); Lei	he, she, you (formal)
noi	we
voi	you (informal)
loro (essi, esse); Loro	they; you (formal)

In Italy people use the “**tu**” form with friends, family members, children, animals and deities.

Egli and **ella**, the “real” or “original” third-person singular subject pronouns, are now only used in written Italian.

Lei, usually written with an upper-case L, is also used to mean “**you**” in formal, polite address.

Essi and **esse**, which can be used for both beings and objects, are not used too often in conversation and **Loro** is also the plural version of **formal “you”**.

Students learn that they don't have to use subject pronouns very much because the endings of the verb indicate the person and number of the subject. There are still a few cases when we have to use subject pronouns:

- **to resolve ambiguity:**

Lui fa l'ingegnere e **lei** è medico. He's an engineer and she's a physician.

- **to compare or contrast:**

Io sono alta e magra, anche mia sorella è magra ma è piuttosto bassa.
I am tall and thin, my sister is also thin but rather short.

- **when the pronoun is the answer to a question:**

Arlecchino, chi va all'aeroporto? Arlecchino, who is going to the airport?
Ci vado **io**. I'm going.

- **whenever the pronoun contains the emphasized information:**

Credo che **voi** abbiate capito l'uso del pronome soggetto.
I believe **you** understood how to use the subject pronouns.
(in this case, implying the existence of others who may not have understood)

Direct and indirect object pronouns: pronomi di oggetto diretto e indiretto

We have two kinds of **object pronouns**: pronouns that stand for **direct objects**, and pronouns that stand for **indirect objects**. The first- and second-person object pronouns are the same whether they're direct or indirect. Only the third-person direct object pronouns differ from their indirect object counterparts.

When the action performed by the subject has a direct effect on an **object**—an object that could even be a person—that person or thing is the **direct object** of the verb:

Pulcinella is giving **flowers**.
Pulcinella dà **i fiori**.

If we want to say to whom Pulcinella is giving the flowers, this person will be the **indirect object**:

Pulcinella is giving these flowers **to Arlecchina**
Pulcinella dà i fiori **ad Arlecchina**.

Arlecchina is indirectly affected by this act of giving, so she is the **indirect object**.

Grammatically speaking, there is one and only one important difference between direct and indirect objects. **Indirect objects always have a preposition in front of them. Direct objects never have a preposition** in front of them.

If there is **no preposition** in front of the object noun, you'll replace it with a **direct object pronoun**:

Pulcinella canta **una canzone**. Pulcinella **la** canta bene.

If the **preposition “a”** is in front of the object noun, you'll replace it with an **indirect object pronoun**:

Pulcinella canta **alla ragazza fiorentina**. Pulcinella **le** canta una canzone napoletana.

Direct object pronouns:

mi	me
ti	you (informal)
lo, la; La	him, her, it; you (formal)
ci	us
vi	you
li, le; Le	them; you (formal)

Indirect object pronouns:

mi	to (or for) me
ti	to (or for) you (informal)
gli, le; Le	to (or for) him, her; to (or for) you (formal)
ci	to (or for) us
vi	to (or for) you (informal)
gli or loro; Gli or Loro	to (or for) them; to (or for) you (formal)

If the verb is in the **infinitive**, object pronouns are **attached to the end of the verb after the final -e has been dropped**:

--Arlecchina, **cantami** la canzone di ieri sera!

--No, non **mi** va di **cantarla** adesso.

--Arlecchina, sing me the song from last night!

--No, I don't feel like singing it now.

Object pronouns come before verbs that are conjugated in all the other moods--indicative, subjunctive, conditional.

--Quando compri un violino nuovo?

--**Lo** compro presto.

--When are you buying a new violin?

--I'm buying it soon.

If you have a **conjugated modal verb**, like *dovere*, *potere*, or *volere*, plus a dependent infinitive, the logical place for the pronoun is attached to the end of the infinitive, since it is the object of the verb in the infinitive, not of the modal. But **conversational Italian** allows the pronoun to go **in front of the modal**:

Vuoi veder**lo**? **Lo** vuoi vedere?

Do you want to see it?

Nota Culturale

I fuochi artificiali

Many of the world's most spectacular and celebrated fireworks displays are the creations of Italian craftsmen, although it was the Arabs and Byzantines who first brought pyrotechnic powders from the Far East to Europe. The original intent was military rather than celebratory, and only around the 12th century did fireworks begin to highlight festivals and holidays. In the 17th century, a famous school for pyrotechnic technicians was opened in Bologna.

Nowadays in Italy there is no New Year's Eve, celebration of a patron saint, or other festivity without the sparkling and, at times, dangerous entertainment of fireworks. From the Alps to Mount Etna, Italians are always ready to raise their heads in awe and admiration at a night-time sky ablaze with their color. If you visit the city of La Spezia in Liguria on the first Sunday of August, you will witness an enchanting array of fireworks over the water to conclude a day of parades and festivities celebrating the sea. A little farther to the east, on the third Sunday of July, in the beautiful city of Venice, Christ the Redeemer and the city's deliverance from the plague in

the 16th century are celebrated in a night-time regatta in the Laguna with spectacular fireworks. Rest assured you will never attend anything quite like it anywhere else in the world. After all, there is just one Venice.

But if you really want to witness one of the most extraordinary events on the face of the Earth, an event that UNESCO has named a patrimony of humanity, you have to go to Catania, in Sicily, from the 3rd to the 5th of February to celebrate Sant'Agata. During these three days, everything else is forgotten and a mix of folklore and devotion takes over the city. With Etna in the foreground, the surrounding baroque architecture, the sea, the food, the marvelous Sicilian people and the incredible fireworks, you might just experience the most magical moment of your life.

In Episode 12, *Just Look at Yourself!*, we'll reflect on what happens when the subject and the object are the same person and on the side effects of mixing direct and indirect object pronouns.

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*”