



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

Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,
Here's a transcript of our recent Holiday Special and All-Star Grammar Review Broadcast,
which you can hear at <https://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode/ep14.html>

Buon divertimento!

Hanno partecipato	<i>Featured in this broadcast</i>
Esmeralda Moscatelli	<i>Colombina</i>
Simone Sessolo	<i>Pantalone</i>
Steven Miller	<i>Pulcinella</i>
Carlos Capra	<i>himself</i>
Irene Eibenstein-Alvisi	<i>herself</i>
Sheilah Murphy	<i>herself</i>
Michael Heidenreich	<i>himself</i>
Sean Neesley	<i>himself</i>

Panettone Gnamagna

Dottore: Ecco il vostro vecchio amico, il Dottor Balanzone, che **vi ricorda** che le feste sono sempre migliori quando c'è il delizioso panettone Gnamagna!

È vero ... **Festeggiate** gustando la delizia dell'incomparabile panettone Gnamagna!

Dottore: Here's your old friend Dottor Balanzone, reminding you that the holidays are always better when there's delicious Gnamagna panettone!

It's true ... Celebrate while enjoying the incomparable delight of Gnamagna panettone!

Nota Grammaticale

"vi ricorda": the unstressed object pronoun precedes the verb.

"Festeggiate": The informal plural "you" imperative is the same as the present indicative of the verb.

At the Teatro Bisognosi

Arlecchino: Chi è che bussa? Chi è? È Babbo Natale?

Eric: No, no, **Sono io!**

Arlecchino: **Ah, sei tu! E tu chi sei?** La Befana?

Eric: Macché Befana! **Sono io!** Eric!

Arlecchino: Eric! E perché non lo hai detto subito?
Attenti, ragazzi! Ecco il nostro presentatore radiofonico!

Colombina: Eric, come stai?

Eric: Bene, bene, grazie, Colombina! Ma che bel costume!

Colombina: Grazie, **l'ho fatto** apposta per il nuovo spettacolo ...

Arlecchino: Su, **dammi** il cappotto, **vieni** qui vicino al fuoco ...

Eric: Ecco, grazie ...

Pantalone: È un piacere **rivederti!**
Arlecchino, **portagli** qualcosa da bere!

Arlecchino: Subito, signore!

Dottore: *Gaudeamus igitur, insieme dum sumus!*

Eric: Grazie, Dottore, è un piacere **rivederLa!**

Dottore: *Sed -- ubi est?*

Eric: Vorrà dire, Dottore, dov'è ...

Arlecchino: Who's knocking? Who is it? Is it Father Christmas?

Eric: No, no, it's me! It's me!

Arlecchino: Ah, it's you! And who are you? The Befana?

Eric: What do you mean, the Befana! It's me! Eric!

Arlecchino: Eric! And why didn't you say so right away?
Attention, guys! Here's our radio announcer!

Colombina: Eric, how are you?

Eric: Fine, fine, thanks, Colombina! What a beautiful costume!

Colombina: Thanks, I made it especially for the new play ...

Arlecchino: Here, give me your coat, come here near the fire ...

Eric: Here, thanks ...

Pantalone: It's a pleasure to see you again!
Arlecchino, bring him something to drink!

Arlecchino: Right away, sir!

Dottore: *Gaudeamus igitur, insieme dum sumus!*

Eric: Thank you, Dottore. It's good to see you again!

Dottore: *Sed -- ubi est?*

Eric: You mean to say, Dottore, where is

...

Dottore: *Ubi est pulcherrima puella Antonella?*

Dottore: *Ubi est pulcherrima puella Antonella?*

Colombina: Già, Antonella! Non **è venuta con te?**

Colombina: That's right, Antonella! Didn't she come with you?

Pantalone: Dov'è la nostra Antonella?

Pantalone: Where is our Antonella?

Eric: Ma **non è ancora tornata** da Roma!

Eric: But she hasn't come back from Rome!

Nota Grammaticale

"Ah, sei tu! E tu chi sei"; "Sono io": The subject pronouns are being used here because they contain the emphasized information.

"L'ho fatto apposta": *passato prossimo* -- a one-time, completed action in the past.

"dammi il cappotto": the singular, informal "you" imperative form of the verb *dare* has only one syllable, so when we attach the object pronoun to it, we double the pronoun's initial consonant

"vieni qui": the singular, informal "you" imperative of *venire* is regular for a third-conjugation verb; i.e., it is the same as the present indicative.

"È un piacere rivederti!": the unstressed direct object pronoun is attached to the end of the infinitive.

"portagli qualcosa": the singular, informal "you" imperative of *portare* is the present indicative stem plus **-a**. The indirect object pronoun must be attached to it.

"è un piacere rivederLa!": the singular, third-person, **feminine** direct object pronoun is used as formal "you" even though the Dottore is a man. Unstressed object pronouns are attached to the end of an infinitive.

"Non è venuta con te?": *venire* is an intransitive verb of motion, conjugated with *essere* as its auxiliary. The past participle of verbs conjugated with *essere* agrees with the subject (Antonella). The disjunctive, or stressed pronoun (*pronome tonico*) must be used when the pronoun follows a preposition.

"non è ancora tornata da Roma!": *tornare* is an intransitive verb of motion, conjugated with *essere* as its auxiliary. The past participle of verbs conjugated with *essere* agrees with the subject (Antonella).

A Visit from the Postman

Arlecchino: Chi è che bussa? Chi è? È Babbo Natale?

il Postino: No, no, sono io! Aprite!

Arlecchino: Ah, sei tu! E tu chi sei? La Befana?

il Postino: Macché Befana! Sono io, il postino!

Arlecchino: Ah, sei tu! E perché non lo hai detto subito? Allora c'è posta **per noi**?

il Postino: Ehi, **apri, e lo saprai!**

Pantalone: Apri, apri, Arlecchino!

il Postino: Buona sera, buona sera, brava gente! Ecco la posta!

Colombina: Oh, che sacco enorme!

Dottore: *Pereat tristitia!*

Pantalone: Grazie, signor Postino! Arlecchino, **prendi** quel sacco!

Arlecchino: Mamma mia, quanto pesa! **Vediamo** cosa c'è dentro!

Colombina: Cosa c'è, Arlecchino?

Arlecchino: Oh, **guarda**, quanti biglietti!

Colombina: **Ce ne sono tanti!**

Dottore: *Vivant biglietti!*

Pantalone: Grazie, signor Postino! Non possiamo **offrirLe** -- ma **dov'è andato**?

Arlecchino: Who's knocking? Who is it? Is it Father Christmas?

il Postino: No, no, it's me! Open up!

Arlecchino: Ah, it's you! And who are you? The Befana?

il Postino: What do you mean, the Befana! It's me, the postman!

Arlecchino: Ah, it's you! And why didn't you say so right away? So, there's mail for us?

il Postino: Hey, open up and you'll find out!

Pantalone: Open up, open up, Arlecchino!

il Postino: Good evening, good evening, fine people! Here's the mail!

Colombina: Oh, what an enormous sack!

Dottore: *Pereat tristitia!*

Pantalone: Thank you, Mister Postman! Arlecchino, get that sack!

Arlecchino: Zounds, how heavy it is! Let's see what's inside!

Colombina: What is it, Arlecchino?

Arlecchino: Oh, look at all the cards!

Colombina: There's so many of them!

Dottore: *Vivant biglietti!*

Pantalone: Thank you, Mister Postman! Can't we offer you -- but where has he

gone?

il Postino: **Eccomi** qua, signore! C'è anche questo pacco!
Brava gente, devo scappare. Tanti altri biglietti e pacchi da consegnare. Buone feste! Buono spettacolo!

il Postino: Here I am, sir! There's this parcel as well!
Fine people, I must be off. Plenty of other cards and parcels to deliver. Happy Holidays! and a Good Show!

Nota Grammaticale

"c'è posta per noi?": the disjunctive, stressed pronoun (*pronome tonico*) must be used because it follows a preposition.

"apri, e lo saprai!": the singular, informal "you" imperative of *aprire* is regular for a third-conjugation (-ire) verb. It is the same as the present indicative. The unstressed direct object pronoun (*pronome tonico*) comes in front of the conjugated verb.

"prendi quel sacco!": the singular, informal "you" imperative of *prendere* is regular for a second-conjugation (-ere) verb. It is the same as the present indicative.

"Vediamo cosa c'è dentro!": the first-person plural ("we") form of the imperative ("Let's ...") is always the same as the present indicative.

"guarda, quanti biglietti!": the singular, informal "you" imperative of *guardare* is regular for a first-conjugation (-are) verb. It is the present indicative stem plus **-a**.

"Ce ne sono tanti!": Although *ci* is not, technically speaking, a pronoun here (it is an adverbial particle), it behaves like one in terms of its placement in relation to the verb. "Ci sono tanti biglietti" = "There are so many cards." *Ne* replaces *biglietti* when we are talking about a quantity of *biglietti*. *Ci + ne = Ce ne*.

"Non possiamo offrirLe": the third-person **feminine** singular indirect object pronoun is used for formal "you" even though the postman is a man. We use an unstressed pronoun (*pronome atono*) because the emphasis here is not on the "you" but on the "being able to offer." *Pronomi atoni* are attached to the end of the infinitive. (Because we also have a conjugated form of *potere*, an acceptable alternative would have been for Pantalone to say *Non Le possiamo offrire ...*)

"ma dov'è andato?": One-time completed action in the past = *passato prossimo*. *Andare* is an intransitive verb of motion conjugated with *essere*.

"Eccomi qua!": *Ecco* behaves like an imperative in terms of pronoun placement. Think of it as meaning "Behold!" The pronoun is unstressed (the emphasis is on the fact that I'm here, not on the fact that it's me) so must be attached to the end: "Behold me!" "Here I am!"

A Happy Surprise

Pantalone: Questo pacco **mi preoccupa** un po' ... Non ho ordinato niente. Colombina?

Colombina: **Io no**, signor Pantalone.

Pantalone: Dottore?

Dottore: *Misterius magnus mihi quantus tibi ...*

Pantalone: Oh, per carità ... Arlecchino?

Arlecchino: Chi è che bussa? Chi è? È Babbo Natale?
Ah, sei tu! E tu chi sei? La Befana?

Antonella: Macché Befana! Sono io, Antonella!

Arlecchino: Antonella! E perché non lo hai detto subito?

Eric: Antonella, ciao! Come stai?

Antonella: A dire il vero, questo non è il mio modo preferito di viaggiare
Aiutatemi! Grazie, amici ...

Eric: Ma, Antonella, come mai ...?

Antonella: Ero tornata nello studio, lì **mi hanno detto che eri qui** ... Oh, i giri che ho fatto ...

Dottore: *Mirabile dictu!*

Pantalone: **Venga**, professoressa, a tavola **con noi** ... **Brindiamo** al ritorno di Antonella! Arlecchino!

Pantalone: This package worries me a bit ... I never ordered anything. Colombina?

Colombina: Not I, Mister Pantalone.

Pantalone: Dottore?

Dottore: *Misterius magnus mihi quantus tibi ...*

Pantalone: Oh, for heaven's sake ... Arlecchino?

Arlecchino: Who's knocking? Who is it? Is it Father Christmas?
Ah, it's you! And who are you? The Befana?

Antonella: What do you mean, the Befana! It's me, Antonella!

Arlecchino: Antonella! And why didn't you say so right away?

Eric: Antonella, hi! How are you?

Antonella: To tell the truth, this is not my favorite way to travel Help me! Thank you, friends ...

Eric: But, Antonella, how on earth ...?

Antonella: I had gone back to the studio; there they told me that you were here ... Oh, the circles I've been in ...

Dottore: *Mirabile dictu!*

Pantalone: Come, professor, to the table with us Let's drink to Antonella's return! Arlecchino!

Arlecchino: Sì, signore!

Arlecchino: Yes, sir!

Colombina: Ecco i bicchieri!

Colombina: Here are the glasses!

Pantalone: Arlecchina, **aiuta** Arlecchino con le bottiglie, spumante per tutti!

Pantalone: Arlecchina, help Arlecchino with the bottles, sparkling wine for everybody!

Arlecchina: Sì, signor Pantalone!
Arlecchino, vieni, **ti do** una mano ...

Arlecchina: Yes, Mister Pantalone!
Arlecchino, come, I'll give you a hand ...

Pantalone: Ecco, professoressa, **si accomodi** ...

Pantalone: Here you are, professor, make yourself comfortable ...

Antonella: Grazie, molto gentile ... ma ...
mi dia per favore del tu

Antonella: Thank you, you're very kind ...
but please, address me as "tu"

Pantalone: Come no ... ecco un bicchiere per -- **per te**

Pantalone: Why of course ... here's a glass for -- for you ...

Arlecchina: Colombina, questo è per il Dottore ...

Arlecchina: Colombina, this is for the Dottore ...

Colombina: Ecco **a Lei**, Dottore ...

Colombina: Here you are, Dottore ...

Dottore: *In vino jubileus!*

Dottore: *In vino jubileus!*

Colombina: Eric,

Colombina: Eric,

Eric: Grazie, Colombina!

Eric: Thanks, Colombina!

Arlecchina: Per il signor Pantalone ...

Arlecchina: for Mister Pantalone ...

Pantalone: E ora, cari amici e colleghi, brindiamo al gioioso ritorno della nostra cara amica---

Pantalone: And now, dear friends and colleagues, a toast to the joyous return of our dear friend--

Antonella: Ma **scusate** un momento ... a proposito di cari amici ... il nostro Pulcinella--dov'è?

Antonella: One moment, please ... speaking of dear friends ... our Pulcinella--where is he?

Pantalone: **Non ti preoccupare** ...

Pantalone: Not to worry ...

Colombina: Pulcinella c'è --

Colombina: Pulcinella is here --

Arlecchino: Eccome!

Arlecchino: And how!

Colombina: Il nostro spettacolo stasera comincia con una sua canzone ...

Colombina: Our show tonight opens with a song of his ...

Arlecchina: Non smette di fare pratica ...

Arlecchina: He won't quit practicing ...

Arlecchino: E' un po' nervoso

Arlecchino: He's a bit nervous

Colombina: Ma **lo vedrai** nello spettacolo, e senz'altro anche dopo ...

Colombina: But you'll see him in the show, and certainly afterwards as well ...

Antonella: Meno male!

Antonella: That's good!

Pantalone: Come **dicevo** ... ad Antonella!

Pantalone: As I was saying ... to Antonella!

Everybody: Ad Antonella!

Everybody: To Antonella!

Pantalone: Bentornata **sia**! E che non **ci lasci** mai più per così tanto tempo!

Pantalone: Welcome back! And may she never leave us again for so long!

Everybody: Cin cin!

Everybody: Cheers!

Nota Grammaticale

"Questo pacco mi preoccupa": *pronome atono* placed in front of the conjugated verb.

"Io no": Colombina's statement is incomplete. "Io non l'ho ordinato" or "Non sono stata io" would be complete versions. In any case, she uses the subject pronoun because it conveys the emphasized information.

"Aiutatemi!": The informal plural "you" imperative of *aiutare* is regular; i.e., it is the same as the present indicative. The unstressed direct object pronoun must be attached to the end of the imperative.

"mi hanno detto": One-time completed action in the past = *passato prossimo*. The unstressed indirect object pronoun must be placed in front of the conjugated verb.

"che eri qui": They didn't say when you **started** being here; at the time they made the statement, your "being here" was **in progress**, so *imperfetto*. (Not a completed event but an ongoing situation.)

"Venga, professoressa": Pantalone is addressing Antonella formally so the imperative form of *venire* is the same as the present subjunctive.

"a tavola con noi": The disjunctive pronoun (*pronome tonico*) must be used because it follows a preposition.

"Brindiamo": The first-person plural imperative ("Let's ...") is always the same as the present indicative.

"Arlecchina, aiuta Arlecchino": The singular, informal "you" imperative of *aiutare* is regular for a first-conjugation (-are) verb; it is the present indicative stem plus **-a**.

"ti do una mano": The unstressed indirect object pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb.

"si accomodi" Pantalone continues to address Antonella formally so the imperative form of *accomodarsi* is the same as the present subjunctive. The verb is reflexive, so the reflexive pronoun must be used and it precedes the conjugated verb (whenever you use the subjunctive as the formal imperative, it doesn't count as a real imperative in terms of pronoun placement).

"mi dia per favore del tu": Antonella responds to Pantalone formally, so the imperative form of *dare* is the same as the present subjunctive and the indirect object pronoun must precede the conjugated verb. *Dare del tu a qualcuno* is the Italian expression that means "to address someone informally (as *tu*)." So Antonella is asking Pantalone to be less formal with her.

"ecco un bicchiere per **te**": Pantalone takes the cue and switches over to the informal "you" in addressing Antonella, using the disjunctive pronoun (*pronome tonico*) here because it follows a preposition.

"Ecco a Lei, Dottore": The third-person singular **feminine** pronoun is used as formal "you" even though the Dottore is a man. The disjunctive pronoun (*pronome tonico*) must be used because it follows a preposition.

"scusate un momento": The informal plural "you" imperative of *scusare* is regular; it is the same as the present indicative.

"Non ti preoccupare": When a "tu"-form command is **negative**, we use *non* + the **infinitive** of the verb. Since *preoccuparsi* is reflexive, the reflexive pronoun must be used. In negative commands, the pronoun may precede the verb, even when it is in the infinitive. (But remember that *non* will always come before any object pronouns.)

"lo vedrai": The unstressed direct object pronoun comes before the conjugated verb.

"Come dicevo.": Pantalone hadn't completed his toast when he was interrupted, so his act of *dire* was an incomplete action. *Imperfetto*.

"Bentornata sia! E che non ci lasci mai più ..." This use of the subjunctive may seem odd until you realize that the clause with the WHEIRDO verb is implied but not explicitly stated. Pantalone means "**Desideriamo** che bentornata sia! E **speriamo** che non ci lasci mai più ..."

The Befana

Antonella: Grazie, grazie! Ma cosa sono questi?

Antonella: Thank you, thank you! But what are these?

Arlecchino: Oh, i nostri biglietti!

Arlecchino: Oh, our cards!

Colombina: **Ce li ha portati** il postino, con il tuo pacco!

Colombina: The postman brought them to us, along with your package!

Dottore: *Ecce bigliettus tibi*, Colombina!

Dottore: *Ecce bigliettus tibi*, Colombina!

Colombina: Grazie, Dottore! Guarda! Qui ce n'è uno per te, Arlecchino!

Colombina: Thank you, Dottore! Look! Here's one for you, Arlecchino!

Arlecchina: Da chi è?

Arlecchina: Who is it from?

Arlecchino: Vediamo ... oh! è da mio cugino Carlos ... quello che **mi ha spiegato** chi è la Befana ... "Caro Arlecchino," mi scrive ... "ricordi come una volta **volevi** sapere tutto sulla Befana? e io **ti raccontavo** ...

Arlecchino: Let's see ... oh! it's from my cousin Carlos, the one who explained to me who the Befana is ... "Dear Arlecchino" he writes ... "do you remember how at one time you wanted to know everything about the Befana? and I told you ...

Carlos: Mentre i tre Re Magi **andavano** a Betlemme per portare i doni a Gesù Bambino, **hanno visto** una vecchia e **hanno insistito che li seguisse** per far visita al piccolo Gesù, ma la donna **non ha voluto**. Poco dopo, tuttavia, la vecchietta **ha cambiato idea** e, dopo aver preparato dei dolci per il bambino, **ha cercato** di raggiungere i Re Magi, ma loro **erano** già lontani e **non ha potuto raggiungerli**. Così, ancora oggi, la notte prima dell'Epifania (il 6 gennaio), la vecchietta, che **si chiama** la Befana, porta dei regali a tutti i bambini buoni **nella speranza che uno di loro sia** il Bambin Gesù. Quella notte tutti i bambini italiani vanno a

Carlos: As the three kings were going to Bethlehem to take their gifts to the child Jesus, they saw an old woman and urged her to follow them to visit little Jesus, but the woman refused. Shortly thereafter, however, the little old lady changed her mind, and after preparing some sweets for the child, she tried to reach the three wise men, but they were already far away and she was unable to catch up with them. So, even today, on the night before Epiphany (the 6 January), the little old lady, called the Befana, takes gifts to all good children in the hope that one of them will be the little Jesus. On that night all Italian children go to sleep awaiting the gifts of

dormire aspettando i regali della Befana che arriva volando su una scopa. Ma i regali arrivano solo ai bambini buoni, a quelli cattivi la Befana porta il carbone.

the Befana, who arrives flying on a broomstick. But gifts come only to the good children; to the bad ones the Befana brings coal.

Arlecchino: Come **mi manca** il mio bravo cugino!

Arlecchino: How I miss my good cousin!

Nota Grammaticale

"Ce li ha portati il postino": The unstressed object pronouns are placed in front of the conjugated verb. The indirect object pronoun is the first of the two and undergoes a spelling change. *Ci + li = Ce li*. The past participle in a compound tense must always agree in number and gender with a third-person direct object pronoun.

"mi ha spiegato"; "mi scrive": The unstressed indirect object pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb.

"ricordi come una volta volevi sapere tutto sulla Befana?": Here *una volta* means not "on one occasion" but "once" as in "once upon a time." The wanting to know was something that happened over and over, during a period of time that is not clearly defined. *Imperfetto*.

"e io ti raccontavo": Over and over you would want to know ... and over and over I would tell you. *Imperfetto*. The unstressed indirect object pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb.

"Mentre i tre Re Magi andavano a Betlemme": The going to Bethlehem is **background information**. It isn't an event that moves the plot forward, it's what was going on when something that does move the plot forward took place.

"hanno visto una vecchia e hanno insistito": Completed actions, in a sequence, that move the plot forward.

"hanno insistito che li seguisse": *Insistere* is a WHEIRDO category verb. They **wanted** her to follow them. The urging and the following have different subjects, so Carlos uses the subjunctive. *Hanno insistito* is a past tense, so the *congiuntivo imperfetto* is the correct tense. The unstressed direct object pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb.

"la donna non ha voluto": This is *passato prossimo* because she didn't want to follow them and she didn't. It is an event that moves the plot forward. She refused to go.

"ha cambiato idea": Another event that moves the plot forward. *Passato prossimo*.

"ha cercato di raggiungere i Re Magi" Another event that moves the plot forward. *Passato prossimo*.

"erano già lontani": Background information describing the condition that was prevailing when she tried to find them.

"non ha potuto raggiungerli": She was unable to and she didn't, so *passato prossimo*. The unstressed direct object pronoun is attached to the end of the infinitive. You could also say "non li ha potuti raggiungere" because *potere* is one of the three modal verbs (*potere, volere, dovere*), therefore, pronouns can be either put before the modal verb (in this case the agreement between direct object pronouns and the past participle of the modal verb is necessary) or after, as Carlos did.

"si chiama la Befana": The reflexive pronoun goes in front of the conjugated verb.

"nella speranza che uno di loro sia il Bambin Gesù": The disjunctive pronoun (*pronome atono*) is used because it follows a preposition. *Sia* is in the subjunctive even though there is no WHEIRDO category verb. That's because the prepositional phrase *nella speranza che* has the same effect as saying *spera che*.

"Come mi manca il mio bravo cugino!": The unstressed indirect object pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb. And the verb *mancare* functions the way *piacere* functions: the English subject is the Italian indirect object and the English direct object is the Italian subject. Yikes! Stay tuned ... further information is on the way in upcoming episodes of *Radio Arlecchino*!

The Santa Lucia Christmas Market in Bologna

Pantalone: Ragazzi! Ecco un biglietto da Irene!

Pantalone: Fellows! Here is a card from Irene!

Dottore: Irene, la mia concittadina!

Dottore: Irene, my countrywoman!

Pantalone: Proprio lei, Dottore! "Caro Pantalone e Compagnia," ci scrive, "ricordate quel Natale che **avete trascorso** qui? Pulcinella **andava** sempre in cerca di dolci!"

Pantalone: The very one, Dottore! "Dear Pantalone and Company," she writes, "remember the Christmas that you spent here? Pulcinella was always off looking for sweets!"

Irene: Santa Lucia è il mercatino di Natale dove tutti gli anni i miei genitori **mi portavano** a comprare qualcosa per il presepio e un pezzo di torrone o di croccante. **Faceva** freddo, ma **passaggiavamo** lentamente in mezzo a tanta gente e tutto **brillava** e **profumava**. **Mi piacevano** tanto le figurine per il

Irene: Santa Lucia is Bologna's Christmas market where my parents took me every year to buy something for the Nativity scene and a piece of nougat candy or hazelnut brittle. It was cold, but we would stroll slowly among all those people and everything was bright and smelled good. I loved the Nativity figures, especially the

presepio, soprattutto quelle che **si muovevano**, e **sceglierne** solo una da portare a casa **era** difficilissimo. **Ho continuato** ad andare a Santa Lucia anche da adulta; è sempre bellissimo, ma c'è un mistero: più **io** diventavo adulta, più il mercato diventava piccolo ... adesso sembra grandissimo solo alle mie bambine!

Pantalone: Ah, quelle bambine oramai non saranno più tanto piccole neanche loro!

Dottore: le mie figliocce ...

Arlecchina: oh, **non pianga**, Dottore -- ecco un biglietto **per Lei!**

ones that moved, and to pick only one of them to take home was very hard. I kept going to Santa Lucia even as an adult; it's still quite beautiful, but there's one mystery: the older I've become, the smaller the market has gotten ... now it seems enormous only to my little girls!

Pantalone: Ah, not even those little girls will be so very little by now!

Dottore: My god-daughters ...

Arlecchina: Oh, don't cry, Dottore -- here's a card for you!

Nota Grammaticale

"quel Natale che avete trascorso qui": This one-time completed past event is expressed using the *passato prossimo*.

"andava sempre in cerca di dolci!": Pulcinella did this repeatedly during this past period of time, so *imperfetto*.

"mi portavano": Her parents took Irene to the market repeatedly during an indeterminate period of time in the past: *imperfetto*.

"Faceva freddo": Not an event that moves the narrative forward, but background information. It describes the conditions that were prevailing when other events took place. *Imperfetto*.

"passeggiavamo": What they did repeatedly on these occasions, not a completed action that moves the story forward. It's background information. *Imperfetto*.

"tutto brillava e profumava": More background information. *Imperfetto*.

"Mi piacevano tanto le figurine per il presepio": More background information. *Imperfetto*.

"quelle che si muovevano": Irene is not talking about figures that moved at a specific moment (that would be an event that would move the story forward), she's describing the figures, telling us what characterized them (background information). *Imperfetto*.

"sceglierne solo una": *Ne* is a third-person direct object pronoun here and is attached to the end of the infinitive.

"era difficilissimo": This describes what it was like to do this, and this was something that happened repeatedly over an indeterminate period of time in the past, so *imperfetto*.

"Ho continuato ad andare": *Passato prossimo*, the tense of completed actions. This implies that Irene no longer goes to the Santa Lucia Market. In fact, Irene now lives in the United States.

"più io diventavo adulta": We have the subject pronoun here in a compare-and-contrast situation: I got bigger, **the market** got smaller.

"non pianga, Dottore": The singular, formal "you" imperative is the same as the present subjunctive.

"un biglietto per Lei": The disjunctive pronoun (*pronome tonico*) following a preposition.

Lucky New Year Treats

Dottore: Sì? Oh! *Non creditur!*

Dottore: Yes? Oh! *Non creditur!*

Colombina: Da chi è, Dottore?

Colombina: Who is it from, Dottore?

Dottore: Una mia ex-studentessa! Sheilah! Quanto **le piacevano** le feste di Capodanno ... **Sentite:**

Dottore: A former student of mine! Sheilah! How she loved the New Year's holiday! Listen:

Sheilah: **Mi ricordo** bene un Capodanno con una famiglia del Piemonte... Per pranzo **abbiamo mangiato** lo zampone con lenticchie che la mamma **aveva cucinato** tutta la mattina (le lenticchie portano fortuna) e tante verdure fritte con una pastella leggerissima; per dolce, naturalmente, c'era il panettone. **Abbiamo brindato** con lo spumante. Fuori **nevicava e faceva** freddo, ma noi **stavamo** bene in casa insieme. L'anno prossimo **vorrei tanto che anche mia madre cucinasse** le lenticchie per Capodanno!

Sheilah: I remember well a New Year's spent with a Piedmontese family ... For lunch we ate a stuffed pig's foot with lentils that the mother had cooked all morning (lentils bring good luck) and so many vegetables fried in a really light batter; for dessert, of course, there was a panettone. We toasted with sparkling wine. Outside it was snowing and cold, but we were comfy together inside. Next year I'd really like for my mother to cook lentils for New Year's too!

Arlecchino: Tutto questo parlare di lenticchie e panettone! Mi fa venire una fame da ... da ...

Arlecchino: All this talk of lentils and panettone! It's making me hungry as ... as ...

Arlecchina: Da Pulcinella?

Arlecchina: As Pulcinella?

Arlecchino: Proprio così!

Arlecchino: That's it exactly!

Pantalone: Allora gradirai un po' di questo squisito pandoro di Verona che mi hanno regalato i miei nipoti!

Pantalone: Then you will enjoy a bit of this exquisite Veronese pandoro that my nephews gave me!

Nota Grammaticale

"Quanto le piacevano le feste": The unstressed indirect object pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb, which is in the *imperfetto* because it is descriptive background information.

"Sentite": The plural, informal "you" imperative of *sentire* is regular. It is the same as the present indicative.

"Mi ricordo": The unstressed reflexive pronoun comes in front of the conjugated verb.

"abbiamo mangiato": A completed event that moves the plot forward. *Passato prossimo*.

"la mamma aveva cucinato tutta la mattina": The point of reference in the past is the moment when we ate the lentils. The mother's cooking of the lentils happened prior to that, so *trapassato prossimo*.

"Abbiamo brindato": A completed event that moves the plot forward. *Passato prossimo*.

"nevicava e faceva freddo": descriptive background information. *Imperfetto*.

"stavamo bene": descriptive background information. *Imperfetto*.

"vorrei tanto che anche mia madre cucinasse": *Vorrei* is a WHEIRDO verb. The verb in the dependent clause has a different subject so *cucinasse* is in the subjunctive. *Vorrei* is in the conditional so the correct tense for the subjunctive verb is *imperfetto del congiuntivo* (the cooking hasn't happened yet).

We appreciate your patience as Mike and Sean work to re-establish our connection with the RBK 9000.

Be sure to tell your friends that whatever you didn't get to hear, you didn't get to hear it on **Radio Arlecchino!**

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