



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

Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,  
Here's a transcript of "Global Thermogrammatical War," our recent show on talking about the future: *il futuro semplice* and *il futuro anteriore*. You can hear this podcast by clicking on the following link: <https://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode/ep19.html>

Buon divertimento!

Hanno partecipato / Featured in this broadcast:

Harmony Eichsteadt  
Niko Letsos  
Krista Lundquist  
Hubert Montoya *as the Students*

### **Transcript : Irruzione**

**Voce dell'apparecchio:** Per favore, introduca quattro monete canadesi di venticinque centesimi.

### **Il Futuometro parla**

**Futuometro:** Salve, Dottore!

**Studente alla tastiera:** Ciao, Futuometro! Come stai?

**Futuometro:** Io, bene! Ma Lei, Dottore... credevo che fosse in ospedale. Lo raccontano tutti i giornali.

**Studente alla tastiera:** Eh... sai, capita che a volte persino i giornali sbagliano.

**Futuometro:** Sì, è vero. Vogliamo fare

### **Break-In**

**Voice of the device:** Please insert four Canadian quarters.

### **The Futuometer speaks**

**Futuometro:** Greetings, Dottore!

**Student at the keyboard:** Hi, Futuometro! How are you?

**Futuometro:** I'm fine! But you, Dottore... I thought you were in the hospital. It's in all the papers.

**Student at the keyboard:** You know, it happens sometimes that even the papers get it wrong.

**Futuometro:** Yes, it's true. Would you

una partita?

**Studente alla tastiera:** Ti andrebbe guerra termogrammaticale globale?

**Futurometro:** Non preferirebbe una bella partita a scacchi?

**Studente alla tastiera:** No, giochiamo a guerra termogrammaticale globale!

**Futurometro:** Bene. Scelga per favore un modo verbale.

**Studente alla tastiera:** Indicativo.

**Futurometro:** Bene. Scelga per favore un tempo verbale.

**Studente alla tastiera:** Dai, Futurometro! Il futuro, senz'altro!

**Futurometro:** Bene. Il futuro semplice.

## Coniugazioni

**Futurometro:** Prima coniugazione. Verbi in -are.

fischiare, solleticare, dominare, eccetera.  
Il vostro esempio: Portare.

Uno: Togliere la “e” finale dell'infinito.  
Risultato: Portar--

Due: Mutare la “a” della desinenza dell'infinito in “e”. Risultato: Porter

Tre: Aggiungere le desinenze del Futuro, che sono sempre le stesse, per tutte le coniugazioni.

Risultati: **porterò, porterai, porterà, porteremo, porterete, porteranno.**

Seconda coniugazione. Verbi in -ere.  
piovere, spremere, esplodere

Il vostro esempio: Prendere.

Uno: Togliere la “e” finale dell'infinito.  
Risultato: Prender--

like to play a game?

**Student at the keyboard:** How about Global Thermogrammatical War?

**Futurometro:** Wouldn't you prefer a nice game of chess?

**Student at the keyboard:** No, let's play Global Thermogrammatical War!

**Futurometro:** Fine. Please select a verbal mood.

**Student at the keyboard:** Indicative.

**Futurometro:** Fine. Please select a verb tense.

**Student at the keyboard:** Come on, Futurometro! The future, of course!

**Futurometro:** Fine. The simple future.

## Conjugations

**Futurometro:** First conjugation. Verbs ending in “-are.”

to whistle, to tickle, to dominate, etc.  
Your example: to take or to carry.

One: Remove the finale “e” from the infinitive. Result: “Portar--”

Two: Change the “a” of the infinitive ending to “e”. Result: “Porter--”

Three: Add the future endings, which are the same for all conjugations.

Results: I will carry, you will carry, he/she/it will carry, we will carry, you will carry, they will carry.

Second conjugation. Verbs ending in “-ere”  
to rain, to squeeze, to explode

Your example: to take or to grab

One: Remove the finale “e” from the infinitive. Result: “Prender--”

Due: Aggiungere le desinenze del Futuro, che sono sempre le stesse, per tutte le coniugazioni.

Risultati: **prenderò, prenderai, prenderà, prenderemo, prenderete, prenderanno.**

Terza coniugazione. Verbi in -ire.  
ruggire, investire, tossire.

Il vostro esempio: Partire.

Uno: Togliere la “e” finale dell'infinito.

Risultato: Partir--

Due: Aggiungere le desinenze del Futuro, che sono sempre le stesse, per tutte le coniugazioni.

Risultati: **partirò, partirai, partirà, partiremo, partirete, partiranno.**

**Studente alla tastiera:** verbi irregolari nel futuro...

**Futurometro:** Irregolari? Nel futuro? Sì, ce ne sono alcuni.

Essere, avere, andare, venire, vedere, porre, supporre, comporre, produrre, bere, tenere, tradurre, condurre, posporre, dovere, sapere, vivere, potere...

**Stamperò** un PDF che **spiegherà** i futuri irregolari

Il futuro anteriore.

## Il Futurometro fa sentire una puntata di Radio Arlecchino

**Futurometro:** In cerca di Radio Arlecchino, trasmissione sul futuro...

**Eric:** Stasera Arlecchino e compagnia recitano in una nuova commedia.

**Antonella:** Domani Pantalone va in banca e il Dottore dà una lezione all'università.

Two: Add the future endings, which are the same for all conjugations.

Results: I will take, you will take, he/she/it will take, we will take, you will take, they will take

Third conjugation. Verbs ending in “-ire”  
to roar, to collide, to cough

Your example: to depart

One: Remove the finale “e” from the infinitive. Result: “Partir--”

Two: Add the future endings, which are the same for all conjugations.

Results: I will depart, you will depart, he/she/it will depart, we will depart, you will depart, they will depart.

**Student at the keyboard:** verbs that are irregular in the future...

**Futurometro:** Irregular? In the future? Yes, there are some....

to be, to have, to go, to come, to see, to put, to suppose, to compose, to produce, to drink, to hold, to translate, to conduct, to postpone, to have to, to know, to live, to be able...

I'll print a PDF that will explain the irregular futures...

The future perfect.

## The Futurometer plays a Radio Arlecchino episode

**Futurometro:** Searching for Radio Arlecchino, broadcast on the future...

**Eric:** Tonight Arlecchino and company will act in a new play.

**Antonella:** Tomorrow Pantalone will go to the bank and the Dottore will give a lesson at the university.

**Antonella:** Stasera Arlecchino e compagnia **reciteranno** in una nuova commedia.

**Eric:** Domani Pantalone **andrà** in banca e il Dottore **darà** una lezione all'università.

**Eric:** L'anno prossimo Pulcinella **inciderà** un nuovo CD.

**Antonella:** Un giorno Pantalone **smetterà** di fare la corte ad Arlecchina.

Arlecchino, **pulirai** i camerini, **metterai** via questi costumi, e poi **aiuterai** Pantalone a calcolare il guadagno.

Chi sarà?

**Eric:** **Sarà** Colombina, **vorrà** che l'aiutiamo ad imparare la square dance.

Chi **entrerà** dalla finestra?

**Antonella:** **Sarà** un ladro; tutti i nostri amici bussano alla porta.

### *Futuro anteriore*

**Antonella e Eric:** **Avrò mangiato.**

**Sarò uscito.**

**Avrai visto.**

**Sarai tornato.**

**Avrà letto.**

**Sarà venuta.**

**Avremo studiato.**

**Saremo andati.**

**Avrete capito.**

**Sarete partiti.**

**Avranno imparato.**

**Si saranno laureati.**

**Antonella:** Tonight Arlecchino and company will act in a new play.

**Eric:** Tomorrow Pantalone will go to the bank and the Dottore will give a lesson at the university.

**Eric:** Next year Pulcinella will record a new CD.

**Antonella:** One day Pantalone will stop courting Arlecchina.

Arlecchino, clean the dressing rooms, put away these costumes, and then help Pantalone to count the receipts.

I wonder who that is...

**Eric:** I imagine it's Colombina, she probably wants us to help her learn the square dance.

Who could be coming in through the window?

**Antonella:** It must be a thief, all our friends knock at the door.

### *Future perfect*

**Antonella and Eric:** I will have eaten.

I will have gone out.

You will have seen

You will have come back.

He/She will have read.

She will have come.

We will have studied.

We will have gone.

You will have understood.

You will have departed.

They will have learned.

They will have received their university degrees.

**Antonella:** Quando Pulcinella è tornato con il mandolino, Arlecchina era già andata via.  
Quando Arlecchino **vincerà** il premio Nobel, **avrà** già **ricevuto** cinque Oscar.

**Eric:** Ma sono già le tre! Dove **sarà** il Dottore?

**Antonella:** Chi lo sa? **Si sarà fermato** a prendere alcuni Pasti Allegri prima di venire...  
Santo cielo! Cosa **sarà successo**?

**Eric:** Boh... Pulcinella **avrà condito** un'altra frittata di spaghetti.

## La farsa è finita!

**Futurometro:** Il pubblico ti **applaudirà** come il nuovo "American Idol" quando **avrà imparato** ad usare bene il futuro e **mangerai** tutte le tue verdure.

**Guiderai** una Cinquecento vecchissima e scassatissima perché non **avrà controllato** il tuo conto in banca prima di andare dal concessionario. Le belle ragazze ti **prenderanno** in giro e --

**Studente alla tastiera:** il Dottore **guarirà....?**

**Futurometro:** Scusi, ma credevo che fosse Lei il Dottore. Non è vero?  
Mi dispiace, ragazzi, ma adesso **dovrò** telefonare alla polizia... alla CIA... ai Carabinieri... all'Interpol... all'FBI... a Scotland Yard... alle Giovani Marmotte...

Per favore, no... non fate così... vi prego...

**Antonella:** When Pulcinella came back with his mandolin, Arlecchina had already gone away.  
When Arlecchino wins the Nobel Prize, he will already have received five Oscars.

**Eric:** Why it's already three o'clock!  
Where do you suppose the Dottore is?

**Antonella:** Who knows? He probably stopped to pick up some Cheerful Meals before coming.  
Good heavens! What could have happened?

**Eric:** Beats me. Pulcinella probably seasoned another spaghetti frittata.

## The jig is up!

**Futurometro:** The public will applaud you as the new "American Idol" when you have learned to use the future well and you eat all your vegetables.

You will drive a beat up old Cinquecento because you won't have checked your bank account before going to the dealership. The pretty girls will make fun of you and--

**Student at the keyboard:** will the Dottore get better...?

**Futurometro:** Pardon me, but I thought you were the Dottore. Isn't that right? I'm sorry, guys, but now I'm going to have to phone the police... the CIA... the Carabinieri... Interpol... the FBI... Scotland Yard... the Junior Woodchucks...

Please... no... don't do that... I'm begging you...

Margherita,  
Non mi **risponderai**?  
Mezzo pazzo  
tu mi **lascera**!  
Il nostro matrimonio  
**Sarà** in manicomio  
Se tu un dì in tandem con me  
A passeggiare non **verrai**.

Daisy, Daisy...

## Nota Grammaticale

“Il Futurometro vi dà il benvenuto, ma aggiunge che se continuerete a mettere le mani nel suo meccanismo, vi farà a pezzettini.”

You'd better consult a dictionary before messing with our robot friend, the Futurometer, again; in fact, you will find out that “fare a pezzettini” is not exactly the most fun thing you might wish for yourself

Similarly to English, in Italian the simple future tense is used to describe actions that will take place in the future and is often accompanied by time expressions such as:

*domani, dopodomani, fra/tra (un'ora, ecc.), la prossima settimana (il mese prossimo, ecc.), subito dopo*

tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, in (one hour, etc.), next week (next month, etc.), right after.

Often Italians also use the present tense to express actions about to take place in the immediate future.

Contrary to English usage, in Italian--at least formal, not colloquial, Italian--if there is a future in the main clause and the dependent clause is introduced by *quando, se, appena*, when, if, as soon as, we will have what we can call “a double future.”

*Il Futurometro ti farà a pezzettini se metterai le mani nel suo meccanismo.*

The Futurometer will cut you into bits and pieces if you put your hands in its apparatus.

Also, differently from English, the expression “I am going to explain everything about the future” corresponds in Italian to “I will explain everything about the future”. In Italian we will not translate literally “I am going to explain”. *Sto andando a spiegare* in fact means that I am physically going somewhere to carry out my explanation about the future.

Since, as you heard in the podcast, the future endings are the same for all conjugations, regular or irregular, students usually get a handle on them fairly quickly. The problem that most often arises is in adding those endings to the correct future stem.

Again, as heard in the podcast, the first step in obtaining the future stem is to drop the final “e” of the infinitive. That **always** results in a future stem that ends in an “r.” As we’ll see in a moment, some other things may happen with verbs that are irregular in the future, but the future stem of every single Italian verb, to which you add the future endings, ends in the letter “r”. Remembering that will go a long way in helping you avoid problems... well, in the future!

So, here are those future endings, the same for all verbs:

-ò  
-ai  
-à  
-emo  
-ete  
-anno

Only the verbs in –are will transform the characteristic vowel “a” into “e”.

Verbs in -are:	Verbs in -ere:	Verbs in -ire:
parlerò	scriverò	dormirò
parlerai	scriverai	dormirai
parlerà	scriverà	dormirà
parleremo	scriveremo	dormiremo
parlerete	scriverete	dormirete
parleranno	scriveranno	dormiranno

Are there irregular verbs conjugated in the simple future? “Of course,” the Futurometer will reply!

1. Essere: sarò, sarai, sarà, saremo, sarete, saranno

2. Some verbs lose the first vowel of the infinitive ending and take a shortened form. Italian grammarians call this phenomenon *la sincope*. Some examples are: andare (andrò), avere (avrò), dovere (dovrò), potere (potrò), sapere (saprò), vedere (vedrò), vivere (vivrò).

Avere: avrò, avrai, avrà, avremo, avrete, avranno

3. In other verbs, the first vowel of the infinitive ending is dropped and that ever-present letter “r” at the end of the stem is doubled. What's more, there is often further shortening of the future

stem. Examples of *l'assimilazione*, as it is known in Italian, are: bere (bere: berrò), rimanere (rimarrò), tenere (terrò), valere (varrò), venire (verrò), volere (vorrò).

Volere: vorrò, vorrai, vorrà, vorremo, vorrete, vorranno

Note: Some verbs have a double “r” in the infinitive to begin with, and it's often hard to tell what conjugation they belong to, because they are shortened forms of older, obsolete infinitives. As far as the future tense is concerned though, it doesn't matter. Just drop the final “e” of the infinitive and add those endings! Examples:

porre: porrò, porrai, etc.

tradurre: tradurrò, tradurrai, etc.

4. Verbs in -care and in -gare take “h” before the vowel “e” in order to preserve the “hard” sound of the “c” or “g.”

Cercare: cercherò, cercherai, cercherà, cercheremo, cercherete, cercheranno

Spiegare: spiegherò, spiegherai, spiegherà, spiegheremo, spiegherete, spiegheranno

The English future perfect and the Italian *futuro anteriore* are similar: they both express actions that “will have taken place” by a certain time.

*Entro domani avremo finito i compiti.*

By tomorrow we will have finished our homework.

As our friend the Futurometer would point out, Italian is very meticulous when it comes to expressing the exact temporal sequence of actions:

*Dopo che avremo finalmente finito i compiti, usciremo.*

After we have finally finished our homework, we will go out.

In the time sequence of the above sentence, “finishing our homework” takes place before our “going out.” Because the main clause presents an action in the future (*usciremo*), the other future action must be expressed in the future perfect (*dopo che avremo finito*) -- the word *anteriore* means “prior” or “before”-- because it is an action that will take place in the future, but **prior** to another future action.

As you can guess, the future perfect, *il futuro anteriore*, is formed by the simple future of the auxiliaries *essere* and *avere* and the past participle of the main verb. All the rules learned about compound tenses such as *passato prossimo*, *trapassato prossimo*, and so on, apply to the future perfect.

Verbs that take the auxiliary *avere*, such as *parlare*:



avrò parlato  
avrà parlato  
avrò parlato  
avremo parlato  
avrete parlato  
avranno parlato

If direct object pronouns (*lo, la, li, le*) are used, agreement with the past participle is mandatory:

*Avrai letto le riviste per domani? Sì, **le** avrò lette.*

Will you have read the magazines by tomorrow? Yes, I will have read them.

Verbs that take the auxiliary *essere*, such as *partire*:

sarò partito/a  
sarai partito/a  
sarà partito/a  
saremo partiti/e  
sarete partiti/e  
saranno partiti/e

As always, in compound tenses conjugated with the auxiliary *essere*, agreement between the subject and past participle is mandatory.

If we had two Futurometers, an American and an Italian, comparing notes about the usage of the future tense in their native languages, they would have some difficulties in finding similarities with the so-called (for convenience only) “futuro della probabilità” or future of probability.

*Che quadro magnifico! A chi apparterrà? Chi l'avrà dipinto?*

What a magnificent painting! I wonder who the owner is... Who do you suppose painted it?

Guessing, hypothesis, doubt can be expressed in Italian in the same way one does in English:

*Mi chiedo chi è il proprietario di questo quadro e chi l' ha dipinto.*

I wonder who the owner of this painting is and who painted it.

However, in Italian “future of probability” is much more frequently used since the concept is communicated more directly and faster.

Since one can guess or wonder both about a present situation and a past one, “future of probability” will use simple future (what **may** be happening now) as well as future perfect (what **may have already** happened), as the above example shows.

Finally, a very peculiar thing happens when a sentence has a past tense in the main clause and expresses an idea of the future in the dependent clause:

*Sapevo che tu saresti tornato qui.*

I knew that you would return here. (that you were going to return)

Not a future tense or the present conditional, but the **past conditional** must be used in the second part.

*Quale grande genio avrà stabilito questa regola??? Qualcuno che ama la consecutio temporis!*  
Which great genius do you think created such a rule??? Someone who loves the *consecutio temporis*!

*A proposito, leggerete di altri geni nella nota culturale...*

By the way, you will read about other geniuses in the cultural note.

## **Nota Culturale**

Our art and popular culture have conditioned us to think of the future in terms of science and technology and where they will lead us. Things such as hacking into the defense computers or facing existential questions about human existence in the vast reaches of outer space are not the kind of thing we usually associate with Italy. The glorious art and architecture of the Italian Renaissance, the mixture of the sensuous and the spiritual of the Italian Baroque, and the soaring lyrical flights of Italian opera through the nineteenth century usually dominate our perceptions of the *Bel Paese*.

Of course, great Italian minds have been developing science and technology that have hastened our journey into the Future all along. The incredible Leonardo (1452-1519) comes immediately to mind, as it seems almost possible that he should have had a *futurometro* of his own, as he designed, engineered, or merely conceptualized countless devices and machines that were far ahead of his time.

If you are one of the thousands who listen to *Radio Arlecchino* on a portable mp3 player, you owe a debt to Alessandro Volta (1745-1827), who invented the battery and lent his name to the familiar unit of electrical potential.

If your imagination is galvanized by Volta's work with "animal electricity" then you will get a charge out of learning more about his contemporary and often rival, Luigi Galvani (1737-1798). Like our own Dottor Balanzone, Galvani was from Bologna. Seeing Galvani make a dead frog's legs twitch with a charge of static electricity may very well be what made the Dottore what he is today.

If you feel the immense pressure that learning Italian grammar can sometimes exert, you might be able to measure it with the barometer invented by Evangelista Torricelli (1608-1647). How many torrs of pressure are exerted on a student by the *futuro anteriore*? Aside from his scientific achievements, Torricelli had a knack for expressing himself quite poetically: "*Noi viviamo sommersi nel fondo di un pelago d'aria,*" he wrote. "We live submerged at the bottom of an

ocean of air." Pulcinella should remember this the next time he takes a dive for a serenade.

Here at Radio Arlecchino we simply cannot fail to mention Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937). Although we love a good controversy as much as anybody else, we're not going to get involved in the "Who invented radio?" debate. But there's no doubt that Marconi's work on radiotelegraphy and wireless data transmission was instrumental in ushering in the age of telecommunications.

Meanwhile, back in this century, great Italian scientific minds are still there, of course, but are now facing some old challenges that have created *la fuga dei cervelli*, the "brain flight" or "brain drain." Many recently graduated Italians with degrees in the sciences find it easier and more rewarding to pursue careers in their fields--especially those in research and development--outside Italy. This is seen as a problem in other countries of Europe and elsewhere as well. *La globalizzazione* will definitely be a challenging phenomenon *nel futuro*.

We hope *your* future will include upcoming episodes of Radio Arlecchino, in which we will explore cause and effect in hypothetical statements. **If** we don't have to deal with any more unauthorized nocturnal visits from over-eager students!

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*”