

Why do I need these activities?

- 1 They promote a sociable atmosphere, and research shows that adults learn better and are more likely to stick to their course when the group dynamic is strong.
- 2 People are far more likely to retain words and phrases they've used themselves in context than ones they've seen or heard passively.
- 3 When concentrating on exchanging specific information, learners will quickly lose any self-consciousness and inhibitions they might have.
- 4 Repetition is vital to retaining language ... but it can be tedious. During these activities key language elements have to be repeated in an interesting and natural way to communicate the required information.
- 5 The activities allow an element of choice in the language used and are structured to prepare learners for the unpredictability inherent to language. They also provide the opportunity to include additional vocabulary relevant to the class.
- 6 Realising that, even at this early stage, he/she can communicate information successfully, entirely in Italian, promotes a great feeling of achievement in the learner and offers immediate confirmation of progress.
- 7 Adults tend to lead busy lives and, given that many classes take place in the evening, may well be tired and stressed before they even start the class. On a purely practical level therefore, it makes sense to add variety and interest to the lesson and to ensure people participate in a sociable, motivating learning experience.

How to use the activities

The following guidelines are to help you, the tutor, make the most of the classroom activities that accompany **Talk Italian**. Please feel free to print out these guidelines and the classroom activities that follow, but make sure you have read the terms and conditions for their use set out in the legal statement [below](#).

About the activity sheets and cue cards/worksheets

The following is a guide to the information presented on the activity sheets:

- ⒫ learners work in pairs
- Ⓖ learners work in small groups
- Ⓒ whole class works together

Page numbers refer to the section of **Talk Italian** covering the basic language needed for the activity. Many of the activities also provide an excellent opportunity to extend the language covered in the book and to give additional vocabulary relevant to members of the class.

Where worksheets and/or cue cards are provided, this is indicated under the heading **Materials**. These are photocopyable Adobe® Acrobat® Reader files for use in the classroom. If Acrobat Reader is not currently installed on your computer, you can download it free of charge from the Adobe website at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Getting the most from the activities

Before starting an activity, make sure that:

- your learners are thoroughly familiar with the language they will need to use.
- the room layout allows people to move around freely and to talk to one another easily.
- everyone knows exactly what they are meant to be doing.
- they know why they are doing it. Adults new to language learning may be unaware of the learning potential of interaction and see it as a distraction.
- you set the context convincingly and bring the situation to life, whether learners are finding information or acting a role.

During the course of the activity, monitor closely and:

- praise often to promote confidence.
- encourage good pronunciation right from the start.
- use your judgement as to when to correct mistakes and do so constructively and tactfully.
- don't let the activity go on too long even though some learners inevitably take longer than others to achieve a task.

At the end of the activity, reinforce learning with feedback:

- Summarise the task, reinforcing the language used and discussing any common mistakes. It may also be appropriate to bring in some additional vocabulary.
- Generate a sense of achievement by pointing out to your learners that they have achieved the task successfully, using Italian.
- On assessed courses, encourage them to file relevant documentation in their portfolio.
- Encourage them to reflect on their learning and, individually, to focus on the final page of the relevant **Talk Italian** unit and evaluate their progress.

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