Unit 5 – Scusi, dov’è la stazione?

Activities

C 5.1 Asking questions to locate places  page 44
P 5.2 Asking how far away places are  pages 44–45
G 5.3 Finding somebody who ...  pages 46–47

Asking for help to understand is not practised separately – learners should be encouraged to ask in Italian for repetition or for a partner to speak slowly in all the activities in this and future units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.1</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asking simple but accurate questions to locate places in town.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Materials |
| Master blank map (provided). |

1. Prepare for the activity by brainstorming town vocabulary and ensuring the correct definite article with each place. You might also like to teach the phrases non lo so and mi dispiace.

2. You need one map per learner. On seven of them mark the position of one place only (e.g. il duomo, il municipio, la stazione, l’azienda di turismo, la questura, il teatro, l’ufficio postale) so that you end up with seven maps, each containing different information. Keep a master copy of where all the places are.

3. Give each learner a map and tell them the seven places they need to locate. Seven of them will each know where one place is located, others will have a blank map. Ask them to circulate, asking about one place at a time e.g.

**Scusi signore/a, dov’è l’ufficio postale?**

The answer will either be Mi dispiace, signore/a, non lo so. or È in via della Vittoria, È in Piazza Garibaldi. etc.

As they find out where the places are, they mark them on the map. The aim is to be the first to complete the map according to the master copy.

This activity starts slowly with much repetition of the questions and non lo so but speeds up as more people have more information.
**5.2 Objectives**
Asking how far away places are and understanding likely replies.

**Materials**
A and B information sheets (provided).

1. Learners take turns in asking whether the places marked ?? on their information sheet are far and fill in the distance or time given by their partner. A starts: the conversation should then be ongoing until all the information has been shared.

   **A** Il Duomo è lontano?
   **B** È a cinque minuti a piedi. E il mercato?
   **A** Il mercato è a ...

2. Successful communication of the information can be checked either by a whole-class discussion or by A and B comparing completed information sheets, which should be identical.

The completed information sheets could be used as portfolio evidence.

**5.3 Objectives**
Sustained social conversation in Italian while practising verb endings in context.

**Materials**
‘Find somebody who ... ’ lists (not provided).

1. Prepare for the activity by ensuring learners know the relevant -are verb endings and understand the lack of need for subject pronouns. Introduce parliare and tell them that, in Italian as in English, the names of languages are the same as nationalities.

2. Draw up a list similar to the one illustrated, using your knowledge of the class to personalise it. You need one copy for each learner. If you make one of the categories impossible to find, it ensures the activity doesn't end before everyone has had the opportunity to ask plenty of questions!
Find somebody who ...
... lives in (local district or street)
... lives in the town centre
... lives in a flat
... works in (local place)
... works in a bank
... doesn't work
... speaks German
... speaks Spanish

3. Ask learners to circulate, asking others one question at a time with the aim of finding someone conforming to each criterion and making a note of their name.

4. At the end of the activity, the work can be consolidated by asking questions to the whole group, e.g. David abita in centro? Chris parla tedesco?