

Using Talk Italian in the classroom

Adults attend a language class expecting it to add another dimension to their learning – they want more than they could do at home by themselves. So here are a few ideas on how to make **Talk Italian** the backbone of your course and still allow learners to find fresh material in the book at home by themselves.

- 1 The **introductory page** is there to focus on the learning aims of the unit and to put them in context. It's very motivating for your class to hear your own take on Italy and Italian culture, and many of them may well have experiences of their own to contribute.
- 2 The audio intentionally uses a lot of English when **presenting the key words and phrases**, to cater for people learning on their own without a teacher. In the classroom, you can introduce the language with as little or as much English as you choose, using devices such as images, mime and paraphrase.
- 3 Instead of using the **exercises illustrating the key language** exactly as they are in the book, why not create your own alternative exercises for learners to use with the **Talk Italian** audio clips. These can include simple comprehension questions, multiple-choice questions, gap-fill, true/false, tick the right option, and so on.
- 4 When you feel learners have been sufficiently prepared, slot in **the interactive activities**. During these, you can personalise the course by supplying new vocabulary which you feel would make the situation particularly relevant to your learners – but take care not to overload at this early level.
- 5 Modify and add to exercises on the **Put it all together** page to **practise vocabulary and grammar**. For example, match Italian and English phrases by writing them all out, cutting them into individual strips and getting groups of learners to match the strips. Write out a dialogue (or two), cut it into its component parts and ask learners to rearrange it. Also, there are some very effective cards and dice on the market to practise, for example, verb endings, gender and numbers.
- 6 If you change just a few of the details in the **Now you're talking role plays** for use in the classroom, it leaves learners with an additional one for each unit to do at home.
- 7 Leave the **Quiz** for homework.
- 8 At the end of a unit, **use the Checklist** as the basis for a class discussion – to motivate people by showing them how much Italian they've learnt. Make sure they're aware of the learning hint for the unit and add any of your own that you feel are appropriate. This is another opportunity for personalising the course.