

The background of the slide is the Italian national flag, featuring three vertical stripes of green, white, and red. The flag is shown with a slight wavy texture, suggesting it is a fabric. The text is centered over the white stripe.

Italian accent

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Oral posture

- Trill your R's.

[r] is different from the English [r]; it is pronounced with one flip of the tongue against the gums of the upper teeth. [This is the trilled r.](#)



Oral posture

- [e] – the sound of thinking, instead of English [æ].

- NO diphthongs.

“Go, I, play”

- Dropped H’s

“I’m so happy to see you!”

- Extra [ə] after the words.

“Do you like[ə] my new dress[ə].”

Oral posture

- **Dentalized [th].**

Many Italians have some difficulty in pronouncing the English "th", and so pronounce it as either "t" (as in "Think"), or "d" (as in "The"), respectively. It does not exist in Italian and is hard to acquire as an adult, especially as substitutes work perfectly well.

- **American accent.**

For how Italian mouth works, it is easier for them to pronounce American words.

e.g. The letter [r]

- **No aspiration.**

- Syllable stress falls differently in the two languages. By default, Italian stresses the penultimate syllable (though there are numerous exceptions).

I work in an Italian department at a university, and so naturally we have a lot of native Italian speakers who also function in English.

Apart from the above-mentioned problems with stressing the wrong syllable, I find they often make mistakes with "th" and "sc". One often pronounces words like "death" as "dess" or "scene" as "sheen".

But mostly they just give English sentences the same rhythm they would give an Italian sentence, which always comes out nice but a bit strange.

- Italian is a *phonetic language*, which means that it is spoken the way it is written. Italian and [English](#) share [the Latin alphabet](#), but the sounds represented by the letters often differ considerably in the two languages.
- In Italian, words such as "Azzurro", "Pollo", or other words with *double consonants* are pronounced twice as long as single consonants. Thus, it would be "Bet-ter" and not "bedder".
- Palatalized [l']