**READING ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS**

**ITALIAN**

**1) Language**

Whether you have an A’ Level or you start as a beginner, language classes in your first year will give you a firm grasp of grammar, develop your vocabulary and language skills and prepare you for the Language Preliminary Exams at the end of Trinity Term. Teaching in your first year will consist of 4 to 5 hours a week comprising Grammar and Vocabulary, Listening comprehension, Reading comprehension, Essay writing, Prose (Translation from English into Italian) and Translation from Italian into English. By your second term you will be required to read one of the narrative set texts entirely in Italian as there is no translation.

Material will be provided by the Language Tutors, who will also advise you on independent learning and weekly assignments. You will need to purchase the following grammar books prior to the start of Michaelmas Term (they will be available at Oxford Blackwell’s):

**Beginners:**

* Required to work throughout from the Presessional throughout the first academic year: *Nuova Grammatica Pratica della Lingua Italiana,* bySusanna Nocchi (Alma Edizioni, preferably the Edizione Aggiornata latest edition 2022)
* Recommended: *The Ultimate Italian Review and Practice*, by David Stillman, second edition (McGraw-Hill, 2019): this is a good introduction but also a useful companion to consolidate and expand your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary in class and independently.

**Post A-Level students:**

* *Soluzioni: A Practical Grammar of Contemporary Italian*, by Denise De Rome, preferably fourth edition (Routledge, 2015).

Other texts recommended for use later in the year include:

* *Upgrade Your Italian*, by Clelia Boscolo (Hodder Education, 2005)
* *Modern Italian Grammar Workbook*, by Anna Proudfoot, second edition (Routledge, 2005)

For reference (at advanced level):

*A Reference Grammar of Modern Italian*, by Martin Maiden and Cecilia Robustelli (Routledge, 2007; second edition).

If you are a beginner, you may start reading some *Easy Readers* ([Easy Readers Italian](https://www.europeanbookshop.com/languagebooks/series/ITA/m4/c21/6/ERIT?expanded=1) available at the European Bookshop in London) and work through them with a dictionary; if you studied Italian at a more advanced level you will enjoy reading the set texts in the original and other works of modern Italian literature, such as collections of short stories. We recommend that you always write down the word or phrase you’ve looked up in your own vocabulary notebook and go over it to consolidate what you have learnt. You should also acquire a good-sized bilingual Dictionary (such as *Oxford-Paravia* or *il Ragazzini*), also available in libraries at Oxford. The following bilingual and monolingual dictionaries are available online:

[Dizionario di italiano Sabatini-Coletti](https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_italiano/index.shtml)

[Dizionario di Inglese Sansoni](https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_inglese/index.shtml)

[Dizionario Garzanti Linguistica](http://www.garzantilinguistica.it/)

[Collins Dictionary](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/italian-english)

[Dizionario dei Sinonimi e dei Contrari Rizzoli](https://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_sinonimi_contrari/index.shtml)

[Vocabolario della Lingua Italiana Treccani](http://treccani.it/vocabolario/)

[Treccani Sinonimi e Contrari](http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/ricerca/inclito/Sinonimi_e_Contrari/)