

## “ITALIAN Year 13 TRANSITION WORK”

If you have chosen to study Italian at University, I recommend the following resources/websites/links:

- A.L. Lepschy and G. Lepschy, *The Italian Language Today* (especially Part II)
- A. Proudfoot & F. Cardo, *Modern Italian Grammar*
- M. Mezzardi, *Essential Italian Grammar Practice + Answer Keys*
- G. Lazzarino & A. Moneti, *Da capo* (3rd ed)
- M. Maiden and Cecilia Robustelli, *A Reference Grammar of Modern Italian* (2nd ed)

You may also wish to practise Italian via the RAI TV programme, In Italia. L'Italia e l'italiano per stranieri, <http://www.initalia.rai.it/>

Once you have worked about half-way through the grammar of Italian, you should be able to start reading. You should start with some short stories – recent writers in this area are Buzzati, Calvino, Ginzburg, Moravia, Pavese.

The titles you will be reading in your first-year course usually are:-

- Primo Levi, *Se questo è un uomo* (1947)
- Natalia Ginzburg, *Lessico familiare* (1963)
- Italo Calvino, *Il barone rampante* (1957)
- Anna Maria Ortese, *Il mare non bagna Napoli* (1953)

Try to read at least the first two by October, you may use translations in the first instance (*If this is a Man*, *Family Sayings*). You will also probably study the film *I cento passi* (2000; available on DVD) directed by Marco Tullio Giordana. Finally, your first-year course will have a poetry component: you will be required to study a number of Italian sonnets from Dante to the present day (we will provide you with an anthology when you arrive), plus one collection of contemporary poetry:-

- G. Ungaretti, *Vita di un uomo (106 poesie)* (Mondadori Oscar) – ONLY the sections 'Allegria' and 'Sentimento del tempo' (read in advance at least 'L'Allegria')

Italian books and grammars are most easily obtained from:- Grant and Cutler, 107 Charing Cross Rd, London, WC2H 0EB, [www.grantandcutler.com](http://www.grantandcutler.com); or The Italian Bookshop, 5 Warwick St, London W1B 5LU, 020 7240 1634, [www.italianbookshop.co.uk](http://www.italianbookshop.co.uk).

It is not essential to go to Italy before coming here, though it will help. But you can also benefit from reading Italian newspapers (the best dailies are *La Repubblica*, *Il corriere della sera* and *La Stampa*) or magazines (*L'Espresso*, *Panorama*, etc.), or seeing Italian films with subtitles. The dailies and magazines also have well-maintained websites: [www.repubblica.it](http://www.repubblica.it), [www.corriere.it](http://www.corriere.it), [www.lastampa.it](http://www.lastampa.it), etc.

**Buon lavoro!**