

Conversational Sicilian

for beginners

Parti Prima (Part One)



Part 1 **STUDY GUIDE** version 4

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Conversational Sicilian for Beginners



This course is designed to give you conversational skills in the Sicilian language. It will stress vocabulary and pronunciation over syntax and grammar, enabling you to carry on conversations with native Sicilians, and to revive the memory of the evocative language spoken by your immigrant parents or grandparents.

Sicily existed as a nation seven hundred years before the creation of the Kingdom of Italy, and the Italian language actually was in part developed from the Sicilian language ('*Sicilianu*'). Contrary to many opinions, Sicilian is not a 'dialect of Italian' but a distinct language.

Today, *Sicilianu* is spoken in the 'Autonomous Region of Sicilia' (the island of Sicily); a variation of Sicilian is spoken in Calabria and southern Puglia; and Neapolitan ('*Napulitanu*') is spoken in the regions of Abruzzo, Molise, Campania and Basilicata.

"Spoken" is a loose term. The official language of all these regions, which are presently part of Italy, is, of course, Italian. The regional languages, including Sicilian, generally are spoken in the home and most often by the older generations, although there are indications that some modern-day Sicilian elementary schools are now teaching the language.



Modern Sicily is divided into nine provinces (*pruvincii*) similar to our counties or states. Each province has a *città* (city) of the same name as its capital. Because of the difficulty of travel when the Sicilian language was forming, different parts of the island developed different *dialetti* (dialects) of *la lingua Siciliana* (the Sicilian language.)

Many descendants of Sicilian immigrants thought their parents spoke 'Italian', and even many of those who *knew* it was Sicilian believed that it was 'a form of Italian'. It is not. This belief was probably held because numerous Sicilian words are very similar to their Italian equivalents, with somewhat different pronunciations: *figlio* for 'son' in Italian, *figliu* or *figghiu* in Sicilian; *compare* for 'friend' in Italian, *cumpari* or *cumbari* in Sicilian, and so on. However, a great number of words in Sicilian are completely different than the equivalent Italian words: 'empty' in Italian is *vuoto*, in Sicilian it's *vacanti*. Italian for 'apple' is *mela*; in Sicilian, it's *pumu*, etcetera.

Teaching and learning Sicilian is also compounded by two facts: it is mainly a spoken language; and it, in itself, has numerous dialects, depending on which part of Sicily is involved.

Since your instructors Maria Garozzo Payne (the city of *Catania* and the town of *Brucoli*) and Angelo Coniglio (village of *Serradifalco*) have roots in widely separated *paisi* (municipalities) of Sicily, one from a large city, the other from a small village, they may pronounce words differently, or use different words with the same meaning. It shouldn't be a problem learning the language, and in fact if students have a different pronunciation to offer, that can be part of our experience. **Appendix ii** (page 29), shows some regional variations.

A copy of Joseph F. Privitera's book '*Sicilian Dictionary and Phrasebook*' is loaned to each student in this class. Like all written Sicilian, it reflects the dialect of the Sicilian language the author is most familiar with, in this case, '*catanisi*', the dialect prominent in Catania Province. The book is not meant as a textbook, but as a way for the student to familiarize themselves with the language. You're invited to peruse it at your convenience between classes, and raise any questions or comments in class. The book also gives a brief history of the language and short descriptions of popular tourist sites. If you want a copy to own, they are available for purchase, for \$12.

Other Sicilian-oriented texts, histories, travelogues and novels are listed at the site <http://www.conigliofamily.com/SicilianReadingList.htm> These include the textbook '*Learn Sicilian – Mparamu lu Sicilianu*' by Sicilian language advocate Professor Gaetano Cipolla. He is the founder of the Sicilian society '*Araba Sicula*' (Sicilian Dawn). During the course of these classes, material from these books and from the journals and newsletters of Arba Sicula will be used as teaching tools.

We also use on-line videos as appropriate. **Appendix i** (page 27) has a list of videos whose links can be accessed from www.bit.ly/TheSicilianLanguage One such video is titled '*Italian vs. Sicilian - How Much Do They Differ?*'. This course is NOT designed to teach differences between Italian and Sicilian, but the video can help reduce confusion over the differences.



LEZZIONI PRIMA

PRONUNZIONI E PARTI DI DISCURSU Parte Una

(Pronunciation and parts of speech, Part 1)

Sicilian, like Italian, is a phonetic language. Once you know the sounds of letters and combinations of letters, you should be able to pronounce any word. There follows a brief pronunciation guide.

VOWELS have the following sounds:

A is "ah" or "uh" (Angela => **AHN**-jeh-**uh**);

E is "eh" which sounds like the English "long a", ('stocking' is *canzetta* => *cahn-ZEH-tuh*);

I is "ee" (Maria => *mah-REE-uh*);

O is "oh" ("long o") and "aw" ('eight' is "otto" **AW-toh**; and

U is "oo" like the English "oo" in 'foot', or the "oo" in 'boot' ('horse' is *cavaddu* => *kah-VAH-ddoo*).

"**A, E, I, O, U**" in Sicilian is "ah, eh, ee, oh, oo". The English sound of **I** ("long i" as in 'eye') is made by the combination "ai". There is no letter "k", "y" or "w". Sometimes the letter "i" is written like a "j", but this is actually a form of "i", and is pronounced as we would pronounce "y" in English.

CONSONANT sounds are much more varied. A few are presented here, others will be explained as they occur.

C is pronounced as the English "ch" ('friends' is *amici* => uh-MEE-**chee**); or as English "k" ('dog' is *cani* => **KAH**-nee); or as English "sh".

G is pronounced as the English "j" ('people' is *genti* => **J**EHN-tee), or like the "hard g" in the English word 'go' ('cat' is *gatta* => **GAH**-tuh).

H has no sound, it's used to convert 'soft' c or g to a hard sound (ch or gh).

Appendix Part iii (page 31), is a pronunciation guide for consonant sounds.

To hear 'close' pronunciations, in <https://translate.google.com/> enter the SICILIAN word as an Italian word, and click the "speaker" icon. For a list of words, see <http://www.conigliofamily.com/TheSicilianLanguage.htm>

Example pronunciations: yes: **si (see)** no: **no (naw)**

please: **pi piaciri (pi-pyah-CHEE-ree)**, **pi favuri (pee fah-VOOR-ee)**

thanks: **grazii (GRAH-tsih-ee)**, **grazzi (GRAH-tsih)**

you're welcome: **di nenti (di NEHN-tee)**, **fa nenti (fah NEHN-tee)**

excuse me: **scusi (SKOO-see)**

I'm sorry: **mi dispiaci (mee dee-SPYAH-chee)**

LEZZIONI SECUNNA

PRONUNZIONI E PARTI DI DISCURSU Parte Dui

(Pronunciation and parts of speech, Part 2)

COMMON NOUNS

house, home: **casa** . . . "**Stammu a casa.**" => "Let's stay home."

room: **stanza** . . . "**Sta stanza jè ranni!**" => "This room is big!"

table: **tavula** . . . "**La tavula sta fatta!**" => "The table has been set!"

chair: **seggiā** . . . "**la seggiā jè nica**" => "the chair is small"

bed: **littu** . . . "**Fa lu littu.**" => "Make the bed."

door: **porta** . . . "**Chuji la porta.**" => "Close the door."

window: **finestra** . . . "**Rapi la finestra.**" => "Open the window."

book: **libbru** . . . "**Lu libbru jè lungu.**" => "The book is long."

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

I: **iu, ju, ji (EEU, YU, YIH)** - "**Iu sugnu Angilu.**" => "I am Angelo."

me: **me (MEH)** - "**Veni cu me.**" => "Come with me." my: **miu/mi/me/m'a**

you: **tu (TOO)** - "**Tu si bedda.**" => "You are beautiful." your: **to (TOH)**

you (plural): **vuantri** . . . "**Vuantri aviti fami?**" => "Are you (all) hungry?"

you (elder): **vussia** . . . "**Avi fami vussia?**" => "Are you hungry, sir/ma'am?"

Many words, have gender-specific forms, often denoted by the endings "u" (masculine), "a" (feminine), and "i" (plural).

he: **iddu / iddru** . . . "**Iddu jè lungu.**" => "He is tall." his: **suo/so**

her: **idda / iddra** . . . "**Idda jè biunna.**" => "She is blonde." hers: **sua/so**

they: **chiddi** . . . "**Chiddi sunnu stranii.**" => "They are strangers."

we, us: **nuantri / nuautri** . . . "**Nuantri simmu Siciliani.**" => "We are Sicilians."

ARTICLES

the: **u/a/i or lu/la/li** . . . "**u/lu omu**", "**a/la fimmīna**", "**i/li genti**" => "the man", "the woman", "the people"

of, from: **di** . . . "**Sugnu figliu di Gaetanu.**" => "I am the son of Gaetanu."

COMMON VERBS

The basic forms of most verbs (regular verbs) have the endings "ari" or "iri". The conjugation (other forms) of verbs depends on their use, and the words may seem different from the basic verb.

to be: **èssiri**

I am: **iu sugnu** you are: **tu si** he is: **iddu è/jè** they are: **iddi sunnu**
I was: **iu èra** you were: **jeratu** he was: **iddu jèra**
they were: **iddi ieranu**

to have: **aviri** (sometimes written with a leading, silent "h")

I have: **aiu** you have: **ha** he has: **avi** they have: **annu**
I had: **avivu** you had: **avisti** he had: **avia** they had: **avivanu**
having: **avinnu**

to do / to make: **fari**

I do, I make: **fazzu** you do: **fa** he does: **fa** they do: **fannu**
I did: **facivu** you did: **facisti** he did: **fici** they did: **faciru**
doing, making: **facinnu**

to go: **jiri**

I go: **vaiu** I went: **jivu**
you go: **va** you went: **jisti**
we go: **iammu**
they go: **vannu**

to walk: **caminari**

I walk: **caminu**
you walk: **camini**
we walk: **caminammu**
they walk: **caminanu**

to want/wish: **vuliri**

I want: **vugliu**
I would like: **vulissi**
you want: **vo**
we want: **vulimmu**
they want: **vunnu**

Regular verbs generally have a similar root or beginning across all conjugations, while **irregular verbs** may have widely different initial syllables. **Appendix iv** (page __) presents conjugations of regular verbs, while irregular verbs are addressed in **Appendix v** (page __).

[Conversation using verbs]

LEZZIONI TERZA

PRONUNZIONI E PARTI DI DISCURSU Parte Tri

(Pronunciation and parts of speech, Part 3)

COMMON ADJECTIVES (words that modify nouns)

big: ***granni / ranni*** . . . "tavula ranni" => "big table"*
small: ***nicu, nica, nichi*** . . . "sedia nica" => "small chair"*
long, tall: ***lungu, lunga, lunghi*** . . . "genti lunghi" => "tall people"*
short: ***curtu, curta, curti*** . . . "omo curto" => "short man"*
good: ***bonu, bona, boni*** . . . "bona jiurnata" => "good morning"
bad: ***malu, mala, mali*** . . . "mala fimmmina" => "bad woman"
cold: ***friddu, frizza, friddi*** . . . "mani friddi" => "cold hands"*
hot: ***callu, calla, calli*** . . . 'aqua calla" => "hot water"*
this: ***chistu/stu***; that: ***chissu***; these: ***chisti/sti***; those: ***chissi/si***

COMMON ADVERBS (words that modify verbs)

- never: **mai** . . . "mai caminu" => "I never walk"
- maybe: **fursi** . . . "fursi ca vaiu" => "maybe I [will] go"
- well, fine: **beni** . . . "fici beni" => "he did well"
- badly: **mali** . . . "giocha mali" => "he plays badly"
- little, poorly: **pucu** . . . "parla pucu" => "he speaks little"
- more: **chiú** . . . "camina chiú lestu!" => "walk more quickly!"
- a lot, very much: **troppu** . . . "troppu callu" => "very hot"

INTERROGATIVES

who: **cu . . .** “***cu c’è?***” => “who’s there”
“***cu fu?***” => “who was it?”
“***cu si?***” => “who are you?”

what: ***chi*** . . . “***chi fa?***” => “what are you doing?”
“***chi virgogna!***” => “what a shame!”
“***chi c’è?***” => “what is it?” (“what’s wrong?”)

why: ***pirchi/pi'chi*** . . . => "pirchi chanci? => "why do you cry?"

where: ***unni*** . . . “***unni va?***” => “where [do] you go?”
“***d’unni si?***” => “where are you from?”

when: ***quannu*** . . . “***quannu veni lu trenu?***” => “when does the train come?”

which: ***quali*** . . . “***quali casa?***” => “which house?”

how: **comu** . . . “**comu si?**” => “how are you?”

[Conversation using various parts of speech]

Example: Who is your father?: "____?"

Where does he live?: "____?"

The house is cold!: "____!"

*This house is cold!: "____!"

**That house is cold!: "____!"

LEZZIONI QUARTA ~ SALUTI (Greetings/Salutations)

VOCABULARIU:

Bon giurnu . . . Good day (early day 'hello')

Bona sira . . . Good evening (after 3 or 4 PM)

Bona notti . . . Good night

Salutamu, Saluti, Vi salutu . . . Greetings/salutations (hello/goodbye)

Addiu . . . Goodbye

Comu si/siti? . . . How are you/you all?

Siti beni? . . . Are you all well?

Beni, troppu beni . . . Well, very well

Cussi cussi . . . So-so

Nni vidimmu . . . We'll see each other (See ya later)

A dumani . . . Until tomorrow

A prestu . . . Soon

A doppu . . . Until afterwards

A chiú tardu . . . Until later

Ora . . . Now

Ora ora . . . Just now

ESEMPIU: "**Bon giurnu, Caloieru.**" ~ "Good day/hello, Caloieru."

Insert the appropriate words in English:

1. "**Bona notti, Caloieru.**" ~ "_____, Caloieru."

2. "**Saluti, Turiddu.**" ~ "_____, Turiddu."

3. "**Bona sira, signorina.**" ~ "_____, young lady."

ESEMPIU: "Comu si?"

Risposta: "Troppu beni, grazii." ~ "Very well, thanks."

Insert the appropriate response in English:

"Comu si?"

1. "Cussi cussi, grazii." ~ "_____."

2. "Bunu/bona sugnu, grazii." ~ "_____."

3. "Troppu beni, tanti grazii." ~ "_____."

ESEMPIU: "Ni vidimmu"

Risposta: "A dumani." ~ "Tomorrow."

Insert the appropriate response in English:

"Nni vidimmu."

1. "A prestu." ~ "_____."

2. "A chiú tardu." ~ "_____."

3. "A doppu." ~ "_____."

ESEMPIU: Michele dici: "Bona sira, Pippina"

Idda rispunni: "Bona sira, Michele." ~ "Good evening,
Michele."

Insert the appropriate response in Sicilian and then in English:

1. **Michele dici:** "Bon giurnu, Pippina."

She responds: "_____." ~ "_____."

2. **Michele dici:** "Bona notti, Pippina."

She responds: "_____." ~ "_____."

3. **Michele dici (al telefunu):** "Bon giurnu, Pippina, comu si? Quannu ni vidimmu?"

She responds: "_____." ~ "_____."

LEZZIONI QUINTA ~ CRISTIANI (People)

FEMININE

signura: ma'am, Mrs

signurina: young lady

donna: lady, woman

fimmina: woman

sposa: bride

muglieri: wife

matri: mother

soru/suru: sister

nora: daughter-in-law (***Nora, nora, grattalora!***)

MASCULINE

signuri/signur': Mr., sir [Capitalized, ***Signuri:*** Lord, God]

don: Mr., sir

omu: man

masculu: male

sposu: groom

maritu: husband

patri: father

frati: brother

GENDER DEFINED BY ENDING

figlia/figliu: daughter/son

zia/ziu: aunt/uncle

nanna/nannu: grandmother/grandfather

cugnata/cugnatu: sister-/brother-in-law

soggera/soggeru: mother-/father-in-law

[Conversation using personal nouns]

Example: Michael is my brother-in-law.: " **Michele** _____."

His wife is my sister Maria.: " _____ **Maria.**"

LEZZIONI SISTA ~ NUMERI (Numbers)

A CARDINAL NUMBER says **how many** of something: one, two, three, etc.

zero: zeru	eleven: unnici	thirty: trenta
one: unu	twelve: dudici	forty: quaranta
two: du/dui	thirteen: tridici	fifty: cinquanta
three: tri	fourteen: quartodici	sixty: sessanta
four: quattro	fifteen: quinnici	seventy: settanta
five: cincu	sixteen: sidici	eighty: ottanta
six: sei	seventeen: diciasetti	ninety: novanta
seven: setti	eighteen: dicedottu	hundred: centu
eight: ottu	nineteen: dicenovi	thousand: milli
nine: novi	twenty: vinti	
ten: deci		

Other cardinal numbers are formed by combination: twenty-two: **vintidu**; three hundred forty-five: **tricentuquarantacinco**, etc.

An ORDINAL NUMBER tells us the **position** of something in a list: **1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th** and so on. In Sicilian, they take on the gender of the noun they are describing: **la prima vota** (the first time); **lu primu figliu** (the first son), etc.

first: prima	eleventh: unnicésima	thirtieth: trentésima
second: secunna	twelfth: dudicésima	fortieth: quarantesima
third: terza	thirteenth: tridicésima	fiftieth: cinquantesima
fourth: quarta	fourteenth: quartodicesima	sixtieth: sessantesima
fifth: quinta	fifteenth: quinnicésima	seventieth: settantesima
sixth: sesta	sixteenth: sidicésima	eightieth: ottantesima
seventh: settima	seventeenth: diciasettesima	ninetieth: novantesima
eighth: ottava	eighteenth: dicedottesima	hundredth: centesima
ninth: nona	nineteenth: dicenovesima	thousanth: millesima
tenth: decima	twenty: vintesima	

TIMPU ~ TIME

hour: ura
day: giurnu
week: simana
month: misi
year: annu

[Conversation involving numbers.]

Example: How many children/sons/daughters do you have? "_____?"

That's the third cannolu you've eaten! "_____!"

How old are you? "_____?"

I'm 39 years old. "_____.."

LEZZIONI SETTIMA ~ *GIURNI/MISI* (Days/Months)

GIURNI DI LA SIMANA ~ DAYS OF THE WEEK

Sunday: **Duminica**

Monday: **Lunidi / Luni**

Tuesday: **Martidi / Marti**

Wednesday: **Mirculdi / Mirculi**

Thursday: **Giovidi / Giovi**

Friday: **Venirdi / Veniri**

Saturday: **Sabatu**

STAGGIUNI ~ SEASONS OF THE YEAR

Spring: **Primavera**

Summer: **E stati** (many say **Staggiuni**)

Fall: **Autunnu**

Winter: **Nmirnu / Nvirnu**

MISI ~ MONTHS

January: **Gennaru**

February: **Febraiu**

March: **Marzu**

April: **Aprili**

May: **Maiu**

June: **Giugnu**

July: **Lugliu**

August: **Agustu**

September: **Settembri**

October: **Ottobri**

November: **Nuvembri**

December: **Dicembri**

[Conversation including measures of time.]

Example: I've been waiting two weeks! "_____!"

There are 30 days in November. "_____"

November has 30 days. "_____"

LEZZIONI OTTAVA – LU TIMPU E FARI VIAGGI

(Weather/directions/transportation/travel))

LU TIMPU (The weather. Note, “**timpu**” also means “time”)

truniari: to thunder (**Trunia!** => It’s thundering!)

lampari: to lightning (**Lampa!** => It’s lightning!)

chioviri: to rain (**Chiovi.** => It’s raining.)

vintu: wind

timpesta: storm

nuvola: cloud

callu: hot

friddu: cold

bagnatu/vagnatu: wet

sciuttu: dry

nivi: snow

nivica: it’s snowing

Today it’s thundering. _____.

Tomorrow will be cold. _____.

INDICAZIUNI (Directions)

Mi po diri comu si va a _?: Can you tell me how to go to _?

Simmu n'a strata giusta pir _?: Are we on the right road for _?

Quantu luntanu è lu prossimu villagiu?: How far is the next town?

Quannu veni lu trenu?: When does the train come?

Unni è l'hotel?: Where is the hotel?

FARI VIAGGI / TRASPORTU (Making trips / transportation)

auto: ***machina (MAH-kee-nuh), carru (KAH-rroo)***

bus: ***autobus (out-oh-BOOSE)***

train: ***trenu (TREH-noo)***

steamship: ***vapuri (vuh-POO-ree), papuri (puh-POO-ree)***

street, road: ***strata (STRAH-tuh)***

to drive: ***cacciari (ka-TCHAH-ree)***

[Conversation about travel]

Example: I'll walk if it's not raining. "_____. "

Can you drive a car? "_____. "

LEZZIONI NONA – FARI LA SPISA (Shopping)

Vaiu a fari la spisa. => I'm going shopping, or

Famu la spisa. => Let's go shopping.

Chi vulimmu mangiari? => What do we want to eat?

Chi vulimmu 'ccattari? = What do we want to buy?

VIRDURA: Greens/Vegetables

accia: celery

organu: oregano

basilicò: basil

scalora: escarole

zarchi, salichi: Swiss chard

aglia: garlic

cacucciuli: artichokes

carduni: cardoons

spinaci: spinach

pumadori, pumadamuri: tomatoes

FRUTTI: Fruit

puma: apples

pira: pears

pirsichi: peaches

fichi: figs

ficudinia (ficu d'India): prickly pears

dati: dates

racina: grape

lumia: lemon

aranciu: orange

frauli: strawberries

ANTRI COSI DI MANGIARI: Other things to eat/ other foodstuffs

CARNI: Meat

manzu: beef

viteddu: veal

agneddu: lamb

maiiali: pork

pecura: sheep

crapa: goat

gaddina/addina: chicken

cunigliu: rabbit

figatu: liver

trippa: tripe

sazizza: sausage

purpetti: meatballs

pani: bread

latti: milk

ova: eggs

zuccheru: sugar

burrzu: butter

tumazzu: cheese

sali: salt

pipi: pepper

spizii: spices (usually pepper)

acitu: vinegar

ulivi: olives

uliu: oil

uliu d'uliva: olive oil

PI BIVIRI: To Drink/Beverages

aqua frisca: natural water

caffè: coffee

aqua frizzanti: carbonated water

tè: tea

vinu: wine

succu di frutta: fruit juice

birra: beer

Cappuccinu: cappuccino

PUSTI PI FARI LA SPISA: Places to Shop

negozziu: shop, store

supermercatu: supermarket

panaru/panetteria: bakery

farmacia: pharmacy

macelleria: butcher shop

Unni vinninu ?: Where do they sell ?

Unni pozzu 'ccattari ?: Where can I buy ?

Quantu costa?: How much does it cost?

[Conversation about food shopping]

Please, four slices of prosciutto. " _____."

Where is the olive oil? " _____?"

LEZZIONI DECIMA – MANGIARI (Dining)

The Sicilian word **mangiari** (mahn-JAR-ih) or **manciari** (mahn-CHAR-ih) can be used as a **noun**, meaning "things to eat", that is, "food".

mangiari: food

But in structure it is a **verb**:

mangiari: to eat, to dine - (**Vo mangiari?** => Would you like to eat?)

mangia: you eat, he/she eats (**Mangia!** => Eat!,
Iddu mangia piseddi. => He eats peas.)

mangianu: they eat (**Chiddi mangianu a li novi.** = They eat at nine o'clock.)

mangiamu: we eat (**Mangiamu!** => Let's eat!)

Mangiamu a casa. => We'll eat at home.

Mangiamu al ristoranti. => Let's dine at a restaurant.

MANGIARI TIPICU SICILIANU: Typical Sicilian Dining

Antipasti: Starters

antipastu mistu: mixed cold cuts, cheeses, olives, etc.

capunatina: eggplant relish

bruschetta: toast with oil, etc.

insalata: salad

Zuppi: Soups

brodu: broth

minestrone: vegetable soup

past' e fasula: beans with pasta

stracciatella: whipped eggs in broth

Pasta: Macaroni

spaghetti:

lasagne:

ravioli:

manicotti:

cu li sardi: with sardines

alla Norma: with eggplant

cu lu burru: with butter

'e piseddi: and peas

cu li sarsi: with sauces

agliu e uliu: garlic and olive oil

funghi: mushrooms

pestu: pesto

pumudamuri: tomato

al cacciaturi: hunstman style **cunigliu, gaddina, viteddu, ecc.**

furnata: baked **milingiana** (eggplant), **lasagne, pasta.**

cutuledda di: cutlet of **viteddu, gaddina, ecc.**

Pisci/Frutti di Mari: Fish/Sea Food

anciovi: anchovies

mirluzzu: cod

sardi: sardines

baccalaru/baccalà: salted cod

tunnu: tuna

vunguli: clams

calamari: squid

babaluci: snails

Dunci: Sweets/Desserts

cannolu: one ricotta-filled pastry

cucidati: fig/date cookies

cannoli: plural of **cannolu**

or puccidati

sfingi: puff pastry

confetti: sugared almonds

pizzelli: waffle cookies

biscotti: twice-baked cookies

cubbaita: almond/honey/sesame candy **biscotti cu giugulena:** sesame seed cookies

[Conversation about dining]

LEZZIONI UNICISSIMA – **ANTRI SIRVIZII, ecc.**

Services, shopping for other items, etc.

Vestimenti: Clothing

capeddu: hat

tascu: cap

cintu: belt

camisa: shirt

falletta: dress

cansi: pants

vistitu: suit

fallaru: apron

bunaca: jacket

scarpi: shoes

lazzi di scarpi: shoelaces

cansetta: stocking

occhiali: eyeglasses

occhiali pi lu suli: sunglasses

maglietta: t-shirt

muttani: underpants

bustu: bra

sartu: tailor

sarta: seamstress

accurzari: to shorten

allungari: to lengthen

Sirvizii: Services

Mi po stirrari sti cansi pi dumani sira?

(Can you press these pants by tomorrow night?)

Mi bisognanu pi sabatu.

(I need them for Saturday.)

Vulissi tagliari li capiddi.

(I would like a haircut.)

Taglia li curti, pi fauri.

(Cut it short, please.)

Unni è la banca chiú vicina?

(Where is the nearest bank?)

Quannu rapi?

(When does it open?)

Vugliu livari sordi.

(I want to withdraw money.)

LA SANITÀ: Soundness/Health

Mi sentu mali (I feel bad.)

Unn mi sentu bonu.

(I don't feel well.)

Li pedi mi fannu mali.

(My feet hurt.)

Mi fa mali la testa.

(I have a headache,)

Aiu acidu.

(I have acid indigestion.)

Iu dutturi: the doctor

'spitali: hospital

Cercu 'na farmacia.

(I'm looking for a drugstore.)

[Conversation about services]

Can you shorten the dress? "____?"

The shirt is too large! "____!"

LEZZIONI DUDICISSIMA – DIVERTARSI (Enjoying yourself)

biviri: to drink

bivu: I drink

bivi: you/he/she drink(s)

bivanu: they drink

bivimu: we drink

ballari: to dance

ballu: I dance

balli: you/he/she dance(s)

ballanu: they dance

ballamu: we dance

cantari: to sing

cantu: I sing

canta: you/he/she sings)

cantanu: they sing

cantamu: we sing

iucari: to play

iucu: I play

iuchi: you/he/she plays

iocanu: they play

iucamu: we play

cacciari: to drive (a vehicle)

curriri: to run

saltari: to jump

natari: to swim

divertari: to have fun

divertimentu: diversion, pleasure, fun

cinema: movie

teatru: theatre

cursa: race

[Conversation about activities]

Stasira nni divertamu!

(Tonight, we'll have fun!)

Dumani, tutta la iurnata, jimmu a natari!

(Tomorrow, all day, we'll go swimming!)

APPENDIX

i: Spoken Sicilian videos

Italian vs Sicilian – How Much Do They Differ?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTgu-H6Xwi4>

The Sound of the Sicilian Language (UDHR, Numbers, Greetings, Words, & Sample Text)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv1nRX51qh0>

Basic Greetings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgFdnA-YvAA>

Common Words and Phrases in Sicilian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lNDIgEEtyw>

The verb "to be": èssiri

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FJjYhJpLGs>

Body Parts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwBcIQ-9xh0>

Fruit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHz4q7lFcb4>

*****Must-see film by Nina Misuraca Ignaczak**

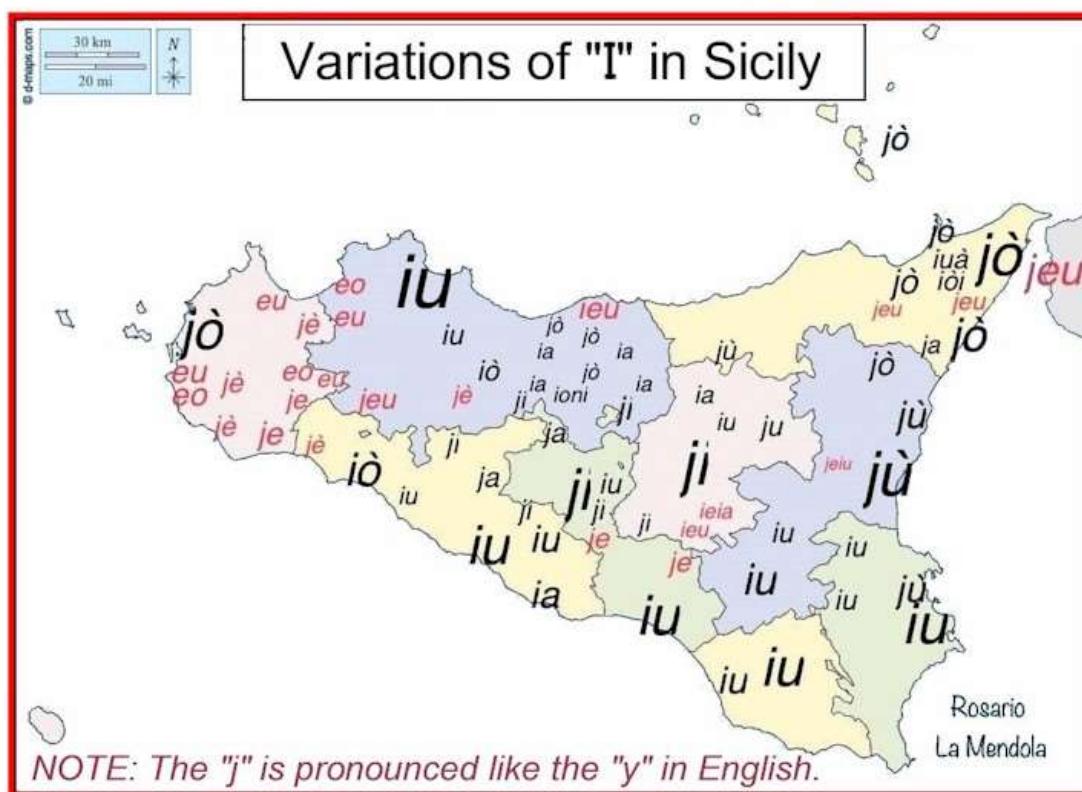
<https://vimeo.com/287832815>

NOTE: Because of the variety of dialects of the Sicilian Language, some words and pronunciations in these videos may differ from those presented in this class. Just another indication of the vibrancy of the Sicilian culture. If you note differences, or have questions about them, bring them up in class.

(Some videos may require you to watch, or skip, ads.)

APPENDIX ii: Dialectical Variations in Sicilian Words

As noted, there are variations in dialects across Sicily. The map shows the nine provinces of Sicily, each with a capital city of the same name, as well as several towns the author has visited. Place your ancestral town on the map to see what pronunciation is common there. The areas marked *Elami*, *Sicani* and *Siculi* indicate where the early Sicilian tribes by those names resided.





"WHERE" in Sicily



Sicilian Specialty



Variations of HOT in Sicilian



"I WENT" in Sicilian



The "j" is pronounced like the "y" in English.

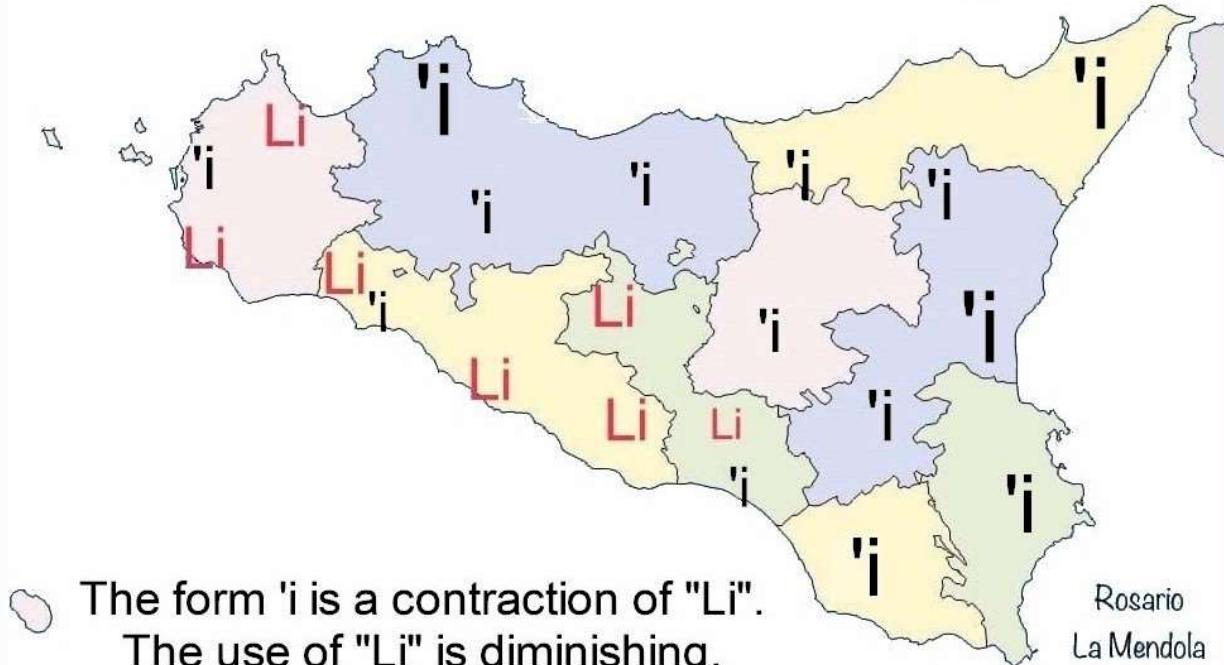
"Go to bed." in Sicilian



Yesterday I saw Maria.



The article "THE" (plural) in Sicilian



The indefinite article "A" or "AN"



Past tense of "to be" (essiri).
"I WAS" or "I HAVE BEEN"



Wild SWISS CHARD in Sicilian



ALSO in Sicilian



ON TOP OF, ABOVE in Sicilian



APPENDIX iii: Consonant Pronunciation Guide

The phonetic versions reflect English phonetics.

Syllables in *UPPER CASE* are *EMPHASIZED*.

The r's are 'rolled'; double rr's are rolled more. The exception is 'r before consonant', which sounds like the English (unrolled) 'r'.

All double consonants are pronounced as such.

'Soft c' is pronounced as the English 'ch' in some dialects, as 's' in others.

'Light l' is like English 'l'; 'heavy l' is similar to 'r', phoneticized here as 'r' or 'll'.

b	p
bonu, good (<i>BOH-noo</i>) abbaiari, to bark (<i>ahb-buy-AHR-ee</i>) banna, place (<i>BAHN-nuh</i>) bannera, flag (<i>bahn-NEH-ruh</i>) fibbia, buckle (<i>FEEB-yuh</i>)	pani, bread (<i>PAH-nee</i>) pesti, pest (<i>PEH-stee</i>) pirsuna, person (<i>peer-SOO-nuh</i>) paisi, town (<i>pie-EES-ee</i>) pastu, meal (<i>PAH-stoo</i>)
d	dd
dinari, money (<i>dee-NAH-ree</i>) diri, to say (<i>DEE-ree</i>) dari, to give (<i>DAH-ree</i>) deci, ten (<i>DEH-chee</i>) doppu, after (<i>DAWP-poo</i>)	bedda, beautiful (<i>BEHD-duh</i>) fedda, slice (<i>FEHD-duh</i>) stidda, star (<i>STEED-duh</i>) fudda, crowd (<i>FOOD-duh</i>) cutiddu, knife (<i>koo-TID-doo</i>)
hard g	soft g
gattu, cat (<i>GAHT-too</i>) gula, throat (<i>GOO-luh</i>) godiri, to enjoy (<i>goh-DEER-ee</i>) ghiacciu, ice (<i>GYAHT-choo</i>) grassu, fat (<i>GRAHS-soo</i>)	gia, already (<i>JAH</i>) giru, tour/turn (<i>JEE-roo</i>) giustu, fair/right (<i>JOO-stoo</i>) giovani, young (<i>JOH-vuh-nee</i>) giuiusu, joyous (<i>joo-YOO-soo</i>)
hard sc	soft sc
scarpa, shoe (<i>SKAR-puh</i>) scola, school (<i>SKOH-luh</i>) schiavu, slave (<i>SKYAH-voo</i>) scopu, effect (<i>SKOH-poo</i>) scurriri, to flow (<i>skoor-REE-ree</i>)	scrusciu, sound (<i>SKROO-shoo</i>) scinniri, to descend (<i>SHEEN-nih-ree</i>) scena, scene (<i>SHEH-nuh</i>) sceccu, donkey (<i>SHEHK-koo</i>) sciuri, flowers (<i>SHOO-ree</i>)

hard c

cani, dog (*KAH-nee*)
chiaru, clear (*KYAH-roo*)
cu, who (*KOO*)
culuri, color (*koo-LOO-ree*)
chi, what (*KEE*)

soft c (as "ch")

cecu, blind (*CHEH-koo*)
città, city (*chee-TAH*)
cincu, five (*CHEEN-koo*)
citari, to quote (*chee-TAH-ree*)
cilu, heaven (*CHEE-loo*)

soft c (as "s")

cecu, blind (*SEH-koo*)
città, city (*see-TAH*)
cincu, five (*SEEN-koo*)
citari, to quote (*see-TAH-ree*)
cilu, heaven (*SEE-loo*)

f

facci, face (*FAH-chee*)
funnu, bottom (*FOO-noo*)
fumu, smoke (*FOO-moo*)
facili, easy (*FAH-chee-lee*)
fami, hunger (*FAH-mee*)

v

vuci, voice (*VOO-chee*)
vita, life (*VEE-tuh*)
vasu, vase (*VAH-soo*)
veru, true (*VEH-roo*)
viniri, to come (*vee-NEE-ree*)

z (voiceless)

ziu, uncle (*ZEE-oo*)
zitu, fiancè (*ZEE-too*)
zampa, paw (*ZAHM-puh*)
zingaru, gypsy (*ZEEN-gah-roo*)
azzuru, steel (*ah-ZOO-roo*)

z (voiced) [tz]

zeru, zero (*TZEEH-roo*)
zona, zone (*TZOH-nuh*)
zagara, orange blossom (*tzah-GAH-ruh*)
zainu, backpack (*TZAYE-noo*)
zefiru, breeze (*TZEH-fee-roo*)

s

sali, salt (*SAH-lee*)
casa, house (*KAH-suh*)
sutta, under (*SOO-ttuh*)
cosa, thing (*KOH-suh*)
risu, rice (*REE-soo*)

str

strata, street (*STRAH-tuh*)
struzzu, ostrich (*STROO-tssoo*)
stranu, strange (*STRAH-noo*)
lustru, light (*LOOS-troo*)
finestra, window (*fee-NEH-strah*)

n	ng
novi, nine (<i>NOH-vee</i>) nasu, nose (<i>NAH-soo</i>) nutari, to note (<i>noo-TAH-ree</i>) nivi, snow (<i>NEE-vee</i>) niputi, nephew etc. (<i>nee-POO-tee</i>)	lungu, long (<i>LOON-goo</i>) sangu, blood (<i>SAHN-goo</i>) lunghizza, length (<i>loon-GEE-tzuh</i>) nglisi, English (<i>n-GLEE-see</i>) ngannari, to cheat (<i>n-gahn-NAH-ree</i>)
Consonantal i is pronounced like the English 'yi', written as 'i' or as 'ji'. The 'j' is an 'i' with a tail, pronounced like the English 'y'.	
<u>i</u> inchiri/ <u>j</u> inchiri, to fill (<i>YIHN-kih-rih</i>) <u>i</u> iditu/ <u>j</u> iditu, finger (<i>YEE-dih-too</i>); or <u>i</u> tu/ <u>j</u> itu (<i>YEE-too</i>) <u>i</u> ri/ <u>j</u> iri, to go (<i>YEE-ree</i>) <u>a</u> ju, I have (<i>AYE-oo</i>) <u>a</u> jutu, help <i>ah-YOO-too</i>)	
gn	qu
ogni, every (<i>AWN-yee</i>) signuri, sir/lord (<i>seen-YOO-ree</i>) pugnu, fist (<i>POON-yoo</i>) dugnu, I give (<i>DOON-yoo</i>) sugnu, I am (<i>SOON-yoo</i>)	quannu, when (<i>QUAH-noo</i>) quarchi, some (<i>QUAHR-kee</i>) qualità, quality (<i>quah-lee-TAH</i>) quali, which (<i>QUAH-lee</i>) quartu, fourth (<i>QUAHR-too</i>)
r (first letter)	r (before consonant)
riccu, face (<i>REE-koo</i>) rosa, rose (<i>ROH-suh</i>) russu, red (<i>ROOS-soo</i>) rubbari, to rob (<i>roob-BAH-ree</i>) rumpiri, to break (<i>ROOM-pih-ree</i>)	arba, dawn (<i>AR-buh</i>) garzuni, aide (<i>gar-TZU-nee</i>) barbaru, barbarian (<i>BAR-buh-roo</i>) marmu, marble (<i>MAR-moo</i>) pardu, leopard (<i>PAR-doo</i>)
r (intervocalic)	rr (intervocalic)
parola, word (<i>pah-ROH-luh</i>) dari, to give (<i>DAH-ree</i>) cura, cure (<i>KOO-ruh</i>) fari, to do (<i>FAH-ree</i>) raru, rare (<i>RAH-roo</i>)	ferru, iron (<i>FEHR-roo</i>) sciarra, quarrel (<i>SHAR-ruh</i>) arriri, behind/again (<i>ahr-REE-ree</i>) arrassu, far off (<i>ahr-RAHS-soo</i>) curriri, to run (<i>koor-REE-ree</i>)

I (light) lacu, lake (<i>LAH-koo</i>) luna, moon (<i>LOO-nuh</i>) lingua, tongue (<i>LEEN-gwuh</i>) littu, bed (<i>LIH-too</i>) lista, list (<i>LEE-stuh</i>)	I (heavy) palmu, palm (<i>PAR-moo</i>) calma, calm (<i>KAR-muh</i>) altari, altar (<i>ahll-TAH-ree</i>) cultu, cultured (<i>KOOLL-too</i>) fulmini, lightning (<i>FOOLL-mee-nee</i>)
t tempu, time (<i>TEHM-poo</i>) teniri, to hold (<i>teh-NEAR-ee</i>) testa, head (<i>TEH-stuh</i>) tali, such (<i>TAH-lee</i>) tu, you (<i>TOO</i>)	tr truvare, to find (<i>troo-VAH-ree</i>) trasiri, to enter (<i>TRAH-sih-ree</i>) patri, father (<i>PAH-tree</i>) ncuntrari, to meet (<i>n-coon-TRAH-ree</i>) tristu, sad (<i>TREE-stoo</i>)
m ma, but (<i>MAH</i>) magru, thin (<i>MAH-groo</i>) mettiri, to put (<i>mit-TEE-ree</i>) amuri, love (<i>ah-MOO-ree</i>) amicu, friend (<i>ah-MEE-koo</i>)	m (before consonant) mparari, to learn (<i>m-pah-RAH-ree</i>) mpastari, to knead (<i>m-pah-STAH-ree</i>) mpidiri, to hinder (<i>m-pid-EE-ree</i>) mmitari, to invite (<i>im-mit-AH-ree</i>) mmriacu, drunk (<i>m-ree-AH-koo</i>)
nt ntra, in (<i>EEN-truh</i>) tintu, evil (<i>TEEN-too</i>) tantu, so much (<i>TAHN-too</i>) puntu, dot (<i>POON-too</i>) vinti, twenty (<i>VEEN-tee</i>)	nz pinzari, to think (<i>peen-ZAH-ree</i>) nzemi, together (<i>NZEH-mee</i>) nzignari, to teach (<i>nzeen-YAH-ree</i>) stanza, room (<i>STAHN-zuh</i>) cunzigliari, to advise (<i>coon-zeel-YAH-ree</i>)
n (before other consonants) nchiudiri, to enclose (<i>n-KYOO-di-ree</i>) ngigneri, engineer (<i>n-jin-YEHR-ee</i>) nfacci, facing (<i>n-FAH-chee</i>) nfatti, in fact (<i>n-FAHT-tee</i>) ncagna, grimace (<i>n-KAHN-yuh</i>)	
cchi occhiu, eye (<i>OH-kyoo</i>) spicchiu, pit (<i>SPEE-kyoo</i>) cucchiara, spoon (<i>KOO-kyah-ruh</i>) chiacchiariari, to chatter (<i>KYAH-kyah-ree-ah-ree</i>) acchianari, to climb (<i>ah-kyah-NAH-ree</i>)	

‘gli’ versus ‘gghi’

Contemporary Sicilian substitutes for the ‘gli’ sound with ‘gghi’. In the former, the ‘g’ is silent; in the latter, it’s like a combination of ‘g’ and ‘y’.

gli	gghi
figliu , son (<i>FEEL-yoo</i>)	figghiu , son (<i>FEE-gyoo</i>)
paglia , straw (<i>PAHL-yuh</i>)	paggchia , straw (<i>PAH-gyuh</i>)
foglia , leaf (<i>FOHL-yuh</i>)	fogghia , leaf (<i>FOH-gyuh</i>)
ogliu , oil (<i>OHL-yoo</i>)	ogghiu , oil (<i>OH-gyoo</i>)
agliu , garlic (<i>AHL-yoo</i>)	agghiu , garlic (<i>AH-gyoo</i>)
muglieri , wife (<i>mool-YEH-ree</i>)	mugghieri , wife (<i>moo-GYEH-ree</i>)
cunigliu , rabbit (<i>coo-NEEL-yoo</i>)	cunigghiu , rabbit (<i>coo-NEE-gyoo</i>)
pigliari , to take (<i>peel-YAH-ree</i>)	pigghiari , to take (<i>pee-GYAH-ree</i>)

APPENDIX iv: Regular Verbs, present tense

First Conjugation: verbs that end in ARI

To conjugate the verbs in the present tense, take out the infinitive ending **ARI** and substitute the six endings of the present tense.

for “I”, 1st person singular (Iu, Ju, Ji) use **U** - for “we”, 1st pers. plur. (Nuautri, Nuantri) use **AMU**
for “you” 2nd person singular (Tu) use **I** - for “you”, 2nd pers. plur. (Vuautri, Vuantri) use **ATI**
for “he/she” 3rd pers. sing. (Iddu/Idda)
and for formal “thou” (Vossia) use **A** - for “they”, 3rd person plural (Iddi) use **ANU** or **UNU**

NOTE: the **bold** fonts in these examples are to emphasize the proper word endings, *not* to indicate emphasis in pronunciation.

PARRARI/PARLARI, to speak

Iu, Ju, Ji	parru /parlu	I speak, I am speaking, I do speak
Tu	parri /parli	You speak, are speaking, do speak
Iddu, Idda	parra /parla	He, She speaks. is speaking, do speak
Vossia, Lei	parra /parla	You speak (formal)
Nui/Nuautri	parramu /parlamu	We speak
Vui/Vuautri	parrati /parlati	You speak
Iddi	parranu /parlanu or parrunu /parlanu	They speak

MPARARI/IMPARARI, to learn

Jo, Io, Ji	mparu
Tu	mpari
Iddu, Idda	mpara
Vossia, Lei	mpara
Nui/Nuautri	mparamu
Vui/Vuautri	mparati
Iddi	mparanu or mparunu

Other regular “ARI” verbs:

Ballari	to dance	Cantari	to sing	Incuntrari	to meet	Pagari	to pay
Jucari	to play	Chiamari	to call	Maritari	to marry		

Second conjugation: verbs that end in IRI

To conjugate the verbs in the present tense, take out the infinitive ending **IRI** and substitute the six endings of the present tense.

<u>singular</u>	<u>plural</u>
“I” : use U	- “we” : use EMU
“you” : use I	- “you” : use ITI
“he/she”,	
“thou” : use I	- “they” : use INU

RISPUNNIRI, to answer, to reply

Iu, Ju, Ji	rispunnu	I answer, I am answering, I do answer
Tu	rispunni	You answer
Iddu, Idda	rispunni	He/She answers
Vossia/Lei	rispunni	You answer (formal)
Nui/Nuautri	rispunnemu	We answer
Vui/Vuautri	rispunniti	You answer
Iddi	rispunninu	They answer

SCRIVIRI, to write

Iu, Ju, Ji	scrivu	I write, I am writing, I do write
Tu	scrivi	You write
Iddu/Idda	scrivi	He/She writes
Vossia/Lei	scrivi	You write (formal)
Nui/Nuautri	scrivemu	We write
Vui/Vuautri	scriviti	You write
Iddi	scrivinu	They write

Other regular “IRI” verbs:

Leggiri to read	Surridiri to smile	Viviri to live	Ripetiri to repeat
Trasiri to enter	Caddiri to fall	Cusiri to sew	Biviri to drink

Verbs ending in CIARI, GIARI, IARI

Verbs ending in **ciari** and **giari** need not add an additional ‘i’ to the second person singular (Tu) because the ‘i’ that remains as part of the stem guarantees the ‘soft c’ sound of the verb.

MANCIARI, to eat

Iu, Ju, Ji manciu

Tu manci**i**

Iddu, Idda mancia**a**

Vossia, Lei mancia**a**

Nui manciamu**a**

Vui manciati

Iddi manciunu

BACIARI, to kiss

Iu, Ju, Ji baciu

Tu baci**i**

Iddu, Idda bacia**a**

Vossia, Lei baci**i**

Nuautri baciamu**a**

Vuautri baciati

Iddi baciunu

To change an affirmative statement into a negative statement, put “NUN” before the verb as follows:

Iu, Ju, Ji vogghiu/vogliu manciari I want to eat

Iu, Ju, Ji nun vogghiu/vogliu manciari I don’t want to eat.

To change a statement into a question put a question mark at the end of the sentence and change the pitch of the voice.

Micheli voli manciari. Micheli wants to eat.

Micheli voli manciari? Does Micheli want to eat?

You can also put the subject after the verb without changing the meaning.

Micheli voli manciari? Voli manciari Micheli?

APPENDIX v: Irregular Verbs, present tense

<u>ESSIRI</u> , to be	<u>AVIRI</u> , to have	<u>DARI</u> , to give	<u>STARI</u> , to stay
Iu sugnu	Iu aiu	Iu dugnu	Iu staiu
Tu si'	Tu ai or a'	Tu duni or dai	Tu stai or sta'
Vossia e`	Vossia avi	Vossia duna or da	Vossia sta`
Iddu, Idda e`	Iddu, Idda avi	Iddu, Idda duna or da	Iddu, Idda sta`
Nuautri semu	Nuautri avemu	Nuautri damu	Nuautri stamu
Vuiatri siti	Vuiatri aviti	Vuiatri dati	Vuiatri stati
Iddi sunnu	Iddi annu	Iddi dunanu or dannu	Iddi stannu
<u>FARI</u> , to make	<u>DIRI</u> , to say	<u>PUTIRI</u> , to be able	<u>IRI</u> , to go
Iu fazzu	Iu dicu	Iu pozzu	Iu vaiu
Tu fai or fa	Tu dici	Tu poi or po	Tu vai or va
Vossia fa or faci	Vossia dici	Vossia po	Vossia va
Iddu, Idda fa or faci	Iddu, Idda dici	Iddu, Idda po	Iddu, Idda va
Nuautri facemu	Nuautri dicemu	Nuautri putemu	Nuautri emu or iemu
Vuiatri faciti	Vuiatri diciti	Vuiatri putiti	Vuiatri iti
Iddi fannu	Iddi dicinu/dicunu	Iddi ponnu	Iddi vannu
<u>VULIRI</u> , to wish/want	<u>SAPIRI</u> , to know	<u>VENIRI</u> , to come	<u>TENIRI</u> , to hold
Iu vogghiu/vogliu	Iu sacciu	Iu vegnu	Iu tegnu
Tu voi or vo or vua	Tu sai or sa	Tu veni	Tu teni
Vossia voli	Vossia sapi or sa	Vossia veni	Vossia teni
Iddu, Idda voli	Iddu, Idda sapi or sa	Iddu, Idda veni	Iddu, Idda teni
Nuautri/Nuantri vulemu	Nuautri sapemu	Nuautri vinemu	Nuautri tinemu
Vuiatri/Vuantri vuliti	Vuiatri sapiti	Vuiatri viniti	Vuiatri tiniti
Iddi vonnu	Iddi sannu	Iddi veninu venunu/vennu	Iddi teninu tenunu/tennu
<u>PONIRI</u> , to place	<u>VIDIRI</u> , to see	<u>DUVIRI</u> , to owe, ought to	
Iu pognu	Iu viu or vidu	Iu devu or divu	
Tu poni	Tu vidi	Tu devi or divi	
Vossia poni	Vossia vidi	Vossia devi or divi	
Iddu, Idda poni	Iddu, Idda vidi	Iddu, Idda devi or divi	
Nuautri/Nuantri punemu	Nuautri videmu	Nuautri duvemu	
Vuiatri/Vuantri puniti	Vuiatri viditi	Vuiatri duviti	
Iddi poninu, ponunu, ponnu	Iddi vidinu or vidunu	Iddi devinu, divinu, devunu, divunu	

