



Lesson 3: Please (This Please) per favore

LESSON NOTES

Italians love it when foreigners try to speak their language. Sometimes tourists tend to fall back on hand gestures when they need to ask for something. By combining a simple "per favore" or "per piacere" you will never again have to gesture stupidly when asking for something in Italy.

In Italian "please" is "per favore".

The easiest way of way of using "please" is to point at something while saying "per favore". To be more specific, you can ask for "this please", which in Italian is "questo per favore". In English, the word for 'this' comes before 'please'. In Italian the order is the same. In Italian the word for 'this', "questo", precedes "per favore"

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is "quello". The phrase "that please" is "quello per favore".

PHRASES

Italian	English
questo per favore	This please
quello per favore	That please

VOCABULARY

Italian	English
Per favore	Please

QUICK TIP

Sometimes, when Italians want to emphasize their politeness, they will add "excuse me" before saying "please." For instance, a customer that walks into a shop may say, "scusi per favore". The word "scusi" is the formal way of saying "excuse me." You should always use the formal when speaking to people whom you do not know or with people who are older than you. (See Quick Tip2). The word "Scusi" comes from the verb "scusare" which means to excuse or to forgive.

QUICK TIP 2

When speaking to someone young or with people you know, using the informal is acceptable. For example, if you are buying something from a shop and the cashier happens to be young, it's okay to say "Scusa, per favore" if you need to get his/her attention. Remember, "Scusa, per favore" is informal for "Excuse me." When in doubt, always use the formal "scusi".