

# ITALIAN PROVERBS AND SAYINGS

Proverbs are short popular memorable, and often highly condensed expressions embodying, usually with bold imagery, some commonplaces truths, useful thoughts, facts, experiences, characteristics and guidance.





# VALLE D'AOSTA

**Quan lo tsin dzarate la terra marque lo be ten.**

Translation: When the dog digs the soil, the weather is good.

Meaning: When the dog digs the soil, the good weather will soon come.



**Desot l'eve la fan.Desot la neilo pan.**

Translation: Under the rain, hunger; under snow, bread.

Meaning: When the winter is very rainy the soil won't give many fruits, on the other hand, when the winter is snowy, the land will be very generous



# PIEMONTE

**Val püsè na bóna làpa, che na bóna sàpa**

Translation: It's better to have a good tongue than a good sap.

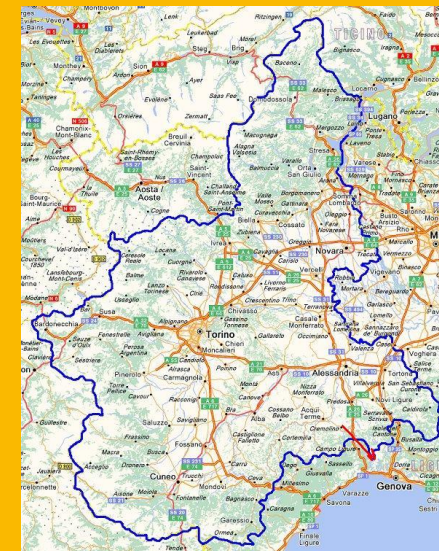
Meaning: It is more useful to be able to speak well, than to farm the land



**A-i va régola e mësura fin-a a bèive l'eva pura**

Translation: Rules and moderation are needed even for drinking pure water

Meaning: Every activity, even the simplest one, needs rules and moderation.



# LOMBARDIA

## La mama l'è na cuèrta de lana

Translation: A mother is a woollen blanket

Meaning: A mother gives protection and she is always caring and warm-hearted



## Pöi l'è r'fradé d'moi

Translation: Later is never's brother

Meaning: Dealyed things would be hardly done



# TRENTINO - ALTO ADIGE

**Co le ciacere non se paga nesun**

Translation: With idle talk, nobody will get paid

Meaning: Facts are important, not just words



**Gropi, seradure e dònè, bisogna torli co le bone**

Translation: Knots, locks and women should be treated with good manners

Meaning: hard stuff deserves patience and care to be sorted out



[Questa foto](#) di Autore sconosciuto è concesso in licenza da [CC BY-SA](#)

# FRIULI - VENEZIA GIULIA

Ogni mès si fâs la lune, ogni dì s'impare une

Translation: Every month the moon changes, every day something new is learnt

Meaning: People learn something new every day



L'avâr no si picje par no spindi i bêçs da cuarde

Translation: The stingy won't hang him/herself for not spending money on the rope

Meaning: Mean people don't spend money even on necessary things



# VENETO

**I mona se conosse da due robe: dal parlare, quando che i dovaria tasére e dal tesére quando che i dovaria parlare**

Translation: Dummies are recognized by two characteristics: they speak when they should hold their tongues, and they are silent when they should speak

Meaning: People have to understand when to speak and when not to.



**Se l'invidia fusse freve, tutto el mondo scotaria**

Translation: If envy were fever, the whole world would burn

Meaning: The world is full of envy





# LIGURIA

**A pugnatta aggueita a no bogge mai**

Translation: If you stare at the pot, the water inside will never boil

Meaning: Time never passes when you are willing for things to happen



**A salute senza dinae a l'è 'nameza maottia**

Translation: Health without money is half an illness

Meaning: Being healthy but poor is not enough to be completely happy



# EMILIA ROMAGNA

Bon temp, salut e quatrén  
n'stofa mai

Translation: Good weather,  
health and money never tire

Meaning: People will never be  
sick and tired of good things



L'è mej lugrê dal schêrp che di linzùl

Translation: It is better to wear out  
one's shoes than to wear out one's  
sheets

Meaning: It is to be hoped to work  
hard and do a lot of things than lying  
in bed ill

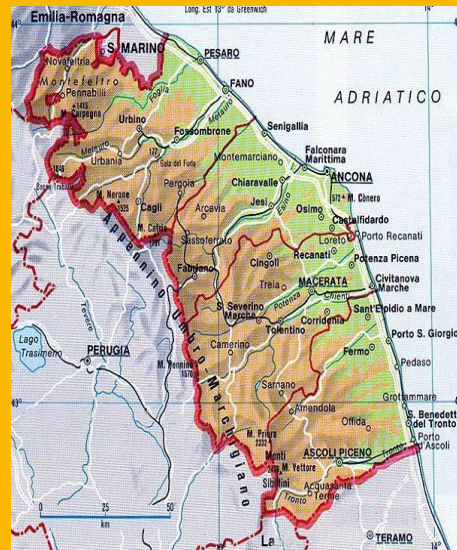


# MARCHE

**Sci nasci purittu te poi ricchi, sci nasci stupetu non poi guarì!**

Translation: If you were born poor, you can become rich, if you were born stupid you cannot recover

Meaning: Those whose who are stupid or behave foolishly are hopeless



**Quanno parlà li quatrì, la veretà la fa zittì!**

Translation: When money talks, the truth is kept silent

Meaning: Money and corruption are so powerful that can even buy the truth



# UMBRIA

La virità viene sempre a galla  
come

l'aju

Translation: The truth always  
comes to the surface as oil does

Meaning: The truth cannot be  
hidden and lies are always  
discovered



Chi vò vive e stà sanu, dai  
parenti stia lontanu

Translation: Who wants to live  
healthy and for a long time,  
should stay away from relatives

Meaning: As in many occasions  
relatives behave very badly, it is  
advisable to be very careful when  
dealing with them



# TOSCANA

**Senza lilleri 'un si lallera**

Translation: With no money  
people don't do anything

Meaning: Without money it  
is difficult to realize things

**Impara il mestiere e mettilo là;  
quando bisogna, vallo a cercà**

Translation: Learn a job and put it away,  
when it is needed go and look for it

Meaning: People should learn to do  
many different things although they  
seem unnecessary, since one day they  
could turn to be useful as what it is  
learned never expires



# MASSA

Per gnente gnanche il can i  
scrole la coa

Translation: Not even the dog  
wags its tail for nothing

Meaning: People always do  
things for a reason



Meghjo 'na cipola en ca' mia, ch'i tordeli en  
ca' d'i altri

Translation: It's better to have an onion at  
one's home, than ravioli at someone else's

Meaning: It is better to enjoy and  
appreciate the little we have, than to envy  
others' wealth



# LAZIO

**Salutà è cortesia, arisponne è obbrigo**

Translation: Greeting is polite, greeting back is compulsory

Meaning: Always be polite, especially to those who are so to you



**Attacca la crapa alla uigna, accomm'è la mamma è pur' la figlia**

Translation: Tight the goat to the vineyard, the mother and the daughter are alike

Meaning: Although mothers and their daughters are different people, most of the time they share the same physical, psychological and moral characteristics. So especially when a boy is looking for a fiancée, should look at her mother first.



# ABRUZZO

**A chije aspette, n'hêre ije ne pare sêtte**

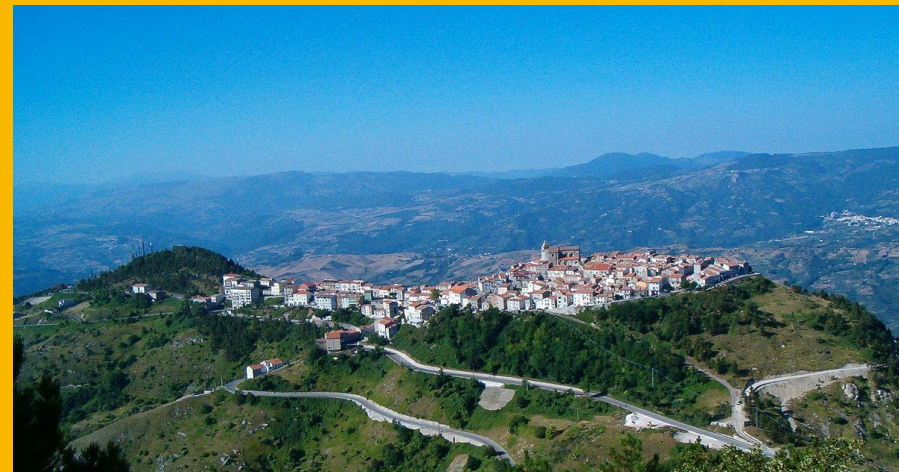
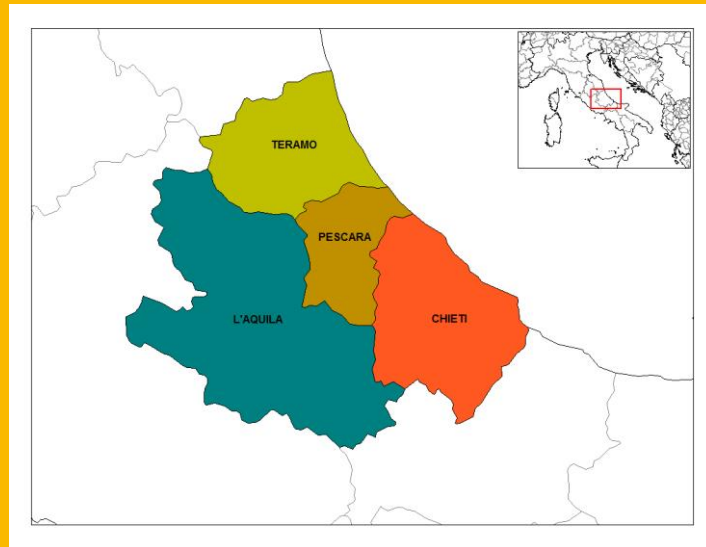
Translation: For those who are waiting, one hour seems seven hours long

Meaning: For those who are waiting, time never passes

**Quande une vede scure, nun è sembre notte**

Translation: When you see darkness, it's not always night

Meaning: Not always things are as bad as they look





# MOLISE

**A fame kàcce u lùpe da tàne**

Translation: Hunger forces the  
wolf to go out from its lair

Meaning: When people are in need  
have to move on and do something



**Ki làsse a viè vèkkie e bbà na nòve,  
sà ke llàsse e nnen zà ke ttròve**

Translation: Those who leave the old  
pathway for a new one, people know  
what they leave , but don't what they  
will find

Meaning: Always be careful when it  
comes to changes, nasty surprises  
might be waiting for you



# PUGLIA

**Lu purpu cu l'acqua sua stessa se cocce**

Translation: The octopus cooks in its own water

Meaning: Let people learn from their own mistakes by their own. Those people have to be able to handle with those mistakes and be ready to face their consequences

**Aria nette nen tene paure de sajette**

Translation: Clean water is not scared by lightning

Meaning: Those who have a clear conscience shouldn't be afraid of anything



# BASILICATA

## Cu s'avanti'ssulu, nu'vvali nu fasulu

Translation: Those who praise themselves, are not worth a single bean.

Meaning: When someone praises him/herself wants to show off and prevail on others despite his/her own defects, so it is better not to trust those people



## Nun lampiscià ca nun ntrón'

Translation: No lightning, no thunder

Meanings:

- 1) Do not worry about something that hasn't happened yet
- 2) If you don't cause any sorrow, you don't have to worry about the consequences



# CAMPANIA

Ogni scarrafone è bello 'a  
mamma soja

Translation: Every beetle is  
gorgeous to its own mother

Meaning: All mothers see their  
children gorgeous despite  
their defects

Ntempo'e tempesta, ogne  
pertuso è puorte'

Translation: During a storm  
every hole is a harbour

Meaning: During hard times,  
even the smallest support  
looks like safeness



# CALABRIA

Spagnati du riccu mpovirutu e du poviru  
arriccutu

Translation: Don't trust either a rich man  
who has become poor or a poor man who has  
become rich

Meaning: Be very careful on who you trust,  
especially when dealing about money

Chini chianta patati, coglia  
patati

Translation: Those who plant  
potatoes, harvest potatoes

Meaning: Everyone gets what  
s/he deserves according to  
his/her previous behaviour



# SICILIA

U lupu di mala cuscenza comu opira penza

Translation: The wolf who has a guilty conscience behaves accordingly

Meaning: A dishonest person thinks that others would behave exactly like him/her, so s/he reluctant

Cu `un fa nenti `un sbaglia nenti

Translation: Those who don't do anything, never fail

Meaning: People shouldn't criticize what has been done by others, as nobody is infallible



# SARDEGNA

S'arvure adderèctala dai minore, da qui faghet nodu non adderectat plus

Translation: The tree must be straighten when it's tiny, since once it gets nodes it will be too late

Meanings:

- 1) Problems should be sorted out as soon as possible, as if they worsen, it will be impossible to be solved
- 2) Parents should teach their children how to behave when they're very young, because once they are grown up, bad habits will remain



Sa campana jamat sos ateros a cheja et ipsa non b'intrat mai

Translation: The bell calls people to church, but it never gets inside

Meaning: It is told about people who don't practice what they preach



### **Morto un Papa se ne fa un altro**

Translation: When a Pope dies, another immediately follows

Meaning: Nobody is irreplaceable.

### **A buon intenditor, poche parole**

Translation: A word to a wise is enough

Meaning: Those who are able to understand, do not need many explanations

### **Il gioco è bello quando dura poco**

Translation: A game is amusing when it's short

Meaning: Even beautiful things, in the long run, become tiring

### **Tra moglie e marito non mettere il dito**

Translation: Don't put a finger between wife and husband

Meaning: It is better to stay away from a couple's business and relationship

### **Piove sempre sul bagnato**

Translation: It always rains on already wet land

Meaning: Good things always happen to already lucky people





### **Ambasciator non porta pena**

Translation: An ambassador doesn't bring penalty

Meaning: People are not guilty for the news or messages they transmit

### **Chi disprezza compra**

Translation: Those who scorn, buy

Meaning: It often happens that those who comment negatively on something, they then want it

### **Il lupo perde il pelo, ma non il vizio**

Translation: The wolf loses its fur, but not its vice

Meaning: Bad habits are difficult to lose

### **Dimmi con chi vai, e ti dirò chi sei**

Translation: Tell me who you hang around with, and I'll tell you who you are

Meaning: To better understand a person, look at the people s/he hangs out with

### **Con le buone maniere si ottiene tutto.**

Translation: With good manners, you can obtain everything

Meaning: With politeness and diplomacy, it is easier to obtain what it is wanted

### **Una mano lava l'altra e tutte e due lavano il viso**

Translation: A hand washes the other one, and both wash the face

Meaning: Collaboration is advisable

### **Chi la dura la vince**

Translation: Those who last, win

Meaning: Those who don't succumb, will obtain what they want

### **Non si può avere la botte piena e la moglie ubriaca**

Translation: You cannot have a full barrel and a drunk wife/husband

Meaning: You cannot have all

### **Chiodo scaccia chiodo**

Translation: spike shoos spike

Meaning: Something new makes you forget what has been lost (especially when it comes to ex boy/girlfriends)

### **Tra il dire e il fare c'è di mezzo il mare**

Translation: Between saying and doing there is a sea

Meaning: There is a huge difference between saying something and making it into practice

### **Chi semina vento raccoglie tempesta**

Translation: Those who plant wind, harvest storm

Meaning: When people commit bad actions, worse ones will follow

### **Se non è zuppa è pan bagnato**

Translation: If it's not gruel, it's wet bread

Meaning: When you only have two options, and you can only choose either one or the other

### **Ognuno tira l'acqua al suo mulino**

Translation: Each one pull the water to his/her own mill

Meaning: Every one is selfish and acts for his/her own interests

### **Paese che vai usanza che trovi**

Translation: Any village you visit has its own traditions

Meaning: Anyone has his/her own traditions and they all have to be respected

### **La lingua batte dove il dente duole**

Translation: The tongue taps on the painful tooth

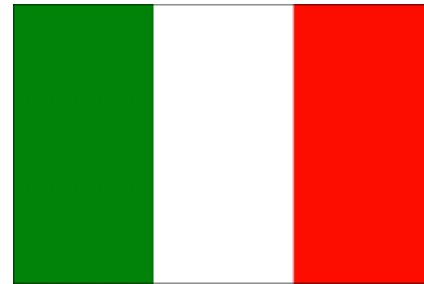
Meaning: Thoughts and speeches always focus on thorny topics

### **L'erba cattiva non muore mai**

Translation: The bad grass never dies

Meaning: Bad people always find a way to carry on

# ERASMUSPLUS PROJECT 2019-2021: RECOGNIZE YOURSELF IN HE OR SHE, WHO ARE NOT LIKE YOU AND ME...



- Presentazione a cura della Prof.ssa Alessandra Mazzi e degli studenti dell'IIS «A. Meucci» (MS) - Italy
  - 07.11.2019