



Bonuses: English Story Translations

Companion Guide for Mini Short Stories in Italian for
Beginners

Full English translations for all stories in the book

By MindSmith Books

Introduction

Welcome to the translations for: *Mini Short Stories in Italian for Beginners!*

You've been enjoying our free Italian mini-short stories book – thanks for making us a small part of your Italian language-learning. These complete English translations are designed to be a companion for the original free book, helping you unlock every detail, cultural reference, and linguistic nuance from the 5 stories you've been reading.

We know that sometimes you might need translations to fully digest some parts of the book, confirm your understanding, or just to satisfy your curiosity about a particular phrase. That's exactly why we created this translation document – **so you can learn with confidence and never feel stuck.**

Each section contains the complete English translations of the stories, plus all the comprehension questions translated as well, maintaining the same formatting and structure as your Italian book, to make it easy to refer back.

How to Use This Translation Guide

- **Read the Italian first** – always attempt to understand the story in Italian before checking the translation (in the original book!). Look up specific sentences or paragraphs rather than reading the entire English version.
- **Check your comprehension** – after reading in Italian, you can then double-check your understanding in English
- **Learn cultural context** – use the translations to understand Italian cultural references and expressions that might not be obvious
- **Review the vocabulary** – compare how Italian expressions translate into natural English

Important Note: These translations are meant to support, not replace, your Italian reading practice. The magic happens when you read in Italian first, then use these translations to confirm, clarify, and deepen your understanding.

This guide pairs perfectly with your main Italian stories book – keep them together and use this translation guide whenever you need an extra boost.

Buona lettura e buon apprendimento!

– *The MindSmith Books Team*

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Now... on to the the translations! →

English Translations

Story 1: A Walk in Rome

Today is a beautiful sunny day. Luca waits for his cousin Paolo in front of Termini station. Paolo arrives with a big smile.

"Hi Luca! I'm ready for the walk!" says Paolo.

"Perfect! Let's go see the most beautiful monuments in Rome," responds Luca.

The two boys walk toward the Colosseum. On the streets there are many tourists with cameras. Luca and Paolo cross the street and arrive in front of the great Roman amphitheater.

"It's incredible!" exclaims Paolo. "Let's take a photo!"

Luca takes his camera and takes many photos. Then they continue walking through the historic center. They pass in front of the Pantheon and stop in a small square.

It's noon and it's hot. Paolo is thirsty.

"I want an ice cream," says Paolo.

"Good idea! I know a very good ice cream shop nearby," responds Luca.

They enter the ice cream shop. The ice cream maker is very kind and smiles at the two boys.

"Good morning! What flavors do you want?" asks the man.

"I'll take chocolate and pistachio," says Paolo.

"And I'll take strawberry and lemon," says Luca.

The ice creams are delicious. The cousins leave the ice cream shop and continue their walk. They walk toward the Trevi Fountain. There are many people throwing coins in the fountain.

"Let's do it too!" says Luca.

Paolo takes a coin from his pocket and throws it in the fountain. He makes a secret wish.

The afternoon passes quickly. The two boys walk through the streets of the center. They look at the shop windows and talk about soccer.

At seven in the evening they're hungry. Luca knows a small trattoria near Piazza Navona.

"Let's go eat! The trattoria has the best pizza in Rome!" says Luca.

They enter the trattoria. The owner greets them warmly.

"Welcome! What would you like?" asks the man.

"Two margherita pizzas, please," responds Luca.

While they wait for the pizzas, the two cousins look at the photos from the day on Luca's camera. They smile and talk about the monuments they visited.

The pizzas arrive. They're hot and smell of fresh basil. Paolo and Luca eat with appetite.

"What a beautiful day!" says Paolo. "Rome is a wonderful city."

"Yes, and we took so many beautiful photos to show the family," responds Luca.

After dinner, the two cousins return home satisfied. It was a perfect day in the Eternal City.

Comprehension Check

1. Where do Luca and Paolo meet? a) At the Colosseum b) At Termini station c) At the Trevi Fountain d) At the ice cream shop
2. What ice cream flavors does Paolo get? a) Strawberry and lemon b) Chocolate and vanilla c) Chocolate and pistachio d) Lemon and pistachio
3. What do the cousins do at the Trevi Fountain? a) Buy ice cream b) Throw a coin c) Only take photos d) Meet friends
4. What time do they go to the trattoria? a) At noon b) In the afternoon c) At seven in the evening d) At midnight
5. What do they order for dinner? a) Tomato pasta b) Two margherita pizzas c) Chocolate ice cream d) Sandwiches and drinks

Answers: 1-b, 2-c, 3-b, 4-c, 5-b

Story 2: Sunday Lunch

It's Sunday morning and Martina wakes up early. Today she's going to her grandmother's house for the traditional lunch. The grandmother lives in a small apartment in the center of Naples.

Martina takes the bus and arrives at her grandmother's house at eleven. She rings the doorbell and hears her grandmother's voice.

"Who is it?" asks the grandmother from the window.

"It's me, grandma! It's Martina!" responds the girl.

The grandmother opens the door and hugs her granddaughter with affection.

"Welcome, dear! Come in, come in!" says the grandmother with a big smile.

Martina enters the apartment. There's a delicious smell of food coming from the kitchen. The grandmother has been preparing lunch for three hours.

"Can I help you, grandma?" asks Martina.

"Yes, dear. You can set the table," responds the grandmother.

Martina goes to the dining room and takes the cutlery from the drawer. She puts the plates, glasses, and cutlery on the table. The grandmother always uses the white Sunday tablecloth.

In the kitchen, the grandmother checks the oven. Inside there's the baked pasta with eggplant and mozzarella. It's a very old family recipe.

"The pasta is almost ready," says the grandmother. "Now I'll prepare the desserts."

The grandmother takes a box full of fresh sfogliatelle. She bought them this morning from the neighborhood pastry shop.

At twelve-thirty Uncle Giuseppe and Aunt Maria also arrive with their two children. The house fills with voices and laughter.

"Hello everyone!" greets Uncle Giuseppe. "What a wonderful smell!"

Everyone sits at the table. The grandmother brings the steaming baked pasta. It's golden and smells of fresh basil.

"Enjoy your meal, everyone!" says the grandmother.

The family eats and talks with enthusiasm. Uncle Giuseppe tells funny stories about his work. The children laugh and ask many questions.

After the pasta, the grandmother brings the sfogliatelle and coffee. Martina helps clear the table.

During lunch, the family talks about many things: work, neighbors, vacation plans. The grandmother always tells stories from the past.

"When I was a child," says the grandmother, "Sunday was very different. There was no television and the whole family gathered for lunch."

Martina listens carefully. She really likes her grandmother's stories.

Lunch ends at three in the afternoon. Everyone is satisfied and happy. The children play in the living room while the adults drink coffee.

Martina helps her grandmother wash the dishes in the kitchen.

"Thank you for this wonderful lunch, grandma," says Martina.

"It's always a pleasure to cook for the family," responds the grandmother with eyes shining with emotion.

At four o'clock, Martina says goodbye to everyone and returns home. She feels proud of her family traditions and is already thinking about next Sunday's lunch.

Comprehension Check

1. What day of the week does Martina go to her grandmother's? a) Saturday b) Sunday c) Monday d) Friday
2. What does the grandmother prepare as a first course? a) Spaghetti with tomato b) Baked pasta c) Risotto d) Lasagna
3. Where does the grandmother buy the sfogliatelle? a) At the supermarket b) At the pastry shop c) She makes them at home d) At the bar
4. Who arrives for lunch besides Martina? a) Only the grandparents b) The grandmother's friends c) Uncle Giuseppe, Aunt Maria and their children d) The neighbors
5. How does Martina feel at the end of the day? a) Tired and bored b) Sad to have left c) Proud of family traditions d) Angry with the family

Answers: 1-b, 2-b, 3-b, 4-c, 5-c

Story 3: A Day at the Market

Marco wakes up early in the **morning**. Today is Saturday and he wants to go to the San Lorenzo **market** in Florence. He takes his shopping **bag** and leaves the house.

The market is very **lively**. There are many **stalls** with fruit, vegetables, cheese, and fresh **bread**. Marco walks among the **vendors** who call to customers.

–Good morning! Fresh fruit! Sweet tomatoes! shouts a vendor.

Marco approaches the first stall. The **fruit vendor** is an elderly man with a green apron.

–Good morning! I'd like some **tomatoes**, please, says Marco.

–Certainly! These are very good. How much do you want? asks the man.

–**Half a kilo**, please, responds Marco.

The fruit vendor weighs the tomatoes on the **scale** and puts them in a small **bag**.

–That's three euros, says the man.

Marco pays and continues walking. He stops in front of a cheese stall. The lady behind the counter smiles.

–What would you like? asks the lady.

–I'd like to **taste** that cheese, says Marco pointing to a piece of **pecorino**.

The lady cuts a small piece and gives it to Marco. The cheese is **salty** and has a very good flavor.

–It's delicious! How much does it cost? asks Marco.

–Ten euros per kilo. How much do you want? responds the lady.

–Two **hundred grams**, please, says Marco.

Then Marco goes to the bread stall. The **baker** has many types of bread: **loaves**, rolls, **focaccia**, and **breadsticks**.

–Good morning! What bread do you prefer? asks the baker.

–One **whole grain** loaf, please, responds Marco.

The baker takes a warm, fragrant loaf from the **basket**.

–Here you are! Five euros, says the man.

Marco continues to **walk around** the market. He stops in front of an **olive oil** stall. The vendor is a young man who comes from Tuscany.

–Do you want to taste our oil? asks the man. It's from our family **company**.

Marco tastes the oil on a piece of bread. It has a **spicy** and aromatic flavor.

–It's very good! I'll take it. A small bottle, says Marco.

–Perfect! This bottle costs fifteen euros, says the vendor.

Marco pays and puts the bottle in his bag. Now he has everything he **needs** to prepare a simple dinner.

While walking toward the exit, he meets Mrs. Bianchi, his **neighbor**.

–Hi Marco! You at the market too? asks the lady.

–Yes! I bought everything for tonight's dinner, responds Marco showing his full bag.

–Good! The market always has the **freshest** products, says the lady.

Marco greets his neighbor and returns home **happy**. He spent twenty euros in total and bought excellent quality ingredients.

At home, Marco prepares a simple salad with the tomatoes, cuts the cheese, and warms the bread. He seasons everything with the new olive oil.

Sitting at the table, Marco thinks about his experience at the market. He likes buying fresh products and talking with the vendors. It's an authentic way to shop and discover the **flavors** of Italian tradition.

Comprehension Check

1. In which city does the story take place? a) Rome b) Naples c) Florence d) Milan
2. How much tomatoes does Marco weigh? a) One kilo b) Half a kilo c) Two kilos d) One and a half kilos
3. What type of cheese does Marco taste? a) Mozzarella b) Gorgonzola c) Parmigiano d) Pecorino
4. How much does Marco spend in total at the market? a) Fifteen euros b) Twenty euros c) Twenty-five euros d) Thirty euros
5. Who does Marco meet at the market? a) A school friend b) His mother c) Mrs. Bianchi, his neighbor d) His boss

Answers: 1-c, 2-b, 3-d, 4-b, 5-c

Story 4: An Ice Cream in Summer

It's a **hot** July day in Florence. The sun **shines** in the blue sky and there isn't even a cloud. Chiara walks through the center with her **friend** Elena. It's four in the **afternoon** and it's very hot.

—What **heat!** says Chiara wiping her forehead. I need something **fresh**.

—Me too! Let's go to the **ice cream shop** on Via dei Neri, responds Elena. They have the best ice cream in the city.

The two girls walk quickly toward the ice cream shop. When they arrive, they see a long **line** of people waiting. The ice cream shop is very **popular** among tourists and Florentines.

Chiara and Elena get in line and look at the beautiful **colors** of the ice cream in the **display case**. There are many different **flavors**: white **stracciatella** with pieces of chocolate, bright yellow **lemon**, pink **strawberry**, green **pistachio**, dark **chocolate brown** and **hazelnut**.

–I don't know what to **choose**! says Elena looking at all the flavors. Everything looks delicious!

–I always get pistachio and stracciatella, says Chiara. But today I'd like to try something **different**.

Their **turn** arrives. The **ice cream maker** is a nice man with gray hair.

–Good morning, girls! What do you **want**? asks the man smiling.

–I'd like to **taste** the lemon flavor, please, says Elena.

The ice cream maker gives her a small **spoon** with a bit of lemon ice cream. Elena tastes it.

–It's perfect! It's not too sweet. **I'll take** two **scoops**: lemon and strawberry, says Elena.

–And I'd like to try the hazelnut, says Chiara.

After tasting, Chiara chooses hazelnut and chocolate. The ice cream maker puts the scoops in the **cones** and gives them to the girls.

–**How much does it cost**? asks Elena.

–Six euros total, responds the ice cream maker.

The girls pay and leave the ice cream shop with their ice creams. They decide to go sit near the **Arno** River.

They walk for a few minutes and arrive **along** the river. They sit on a **bench** under a big **tree**. The shade is very pleasant after the heat of the street.

–What a beautiful **view**! says Chiara looking at the river that flows slowly.

While eating their ice cream, the two friends watch people taking the traditional afternoon **stroll**. They see **families** with children, **couples** holding hands, **elderly people** walking slowly, and tourists taking photos.

–I really like this **moment** of the day, says Elena. Everyone seems **relaxed** and happy.

A **child** with a red shirt runs near the bench while licking a **pink** ice cream. His **mom** follows him laughing.

–Be careful not to drop the ice cream! shouts the mom.

The child stops and makes a big smile showing his teeth **stained** with pink ice cream.

Chiara and Elena **laugh** seeing the scene. They also have their lips colored by their ice creams.

–It's good to eat ice cream when it's so hot, says Chiara. It's one of the Italian **traditions** I love most.

–You're right, responds Elena. And this place is perfect for a **break**. The river, the shade, the people passing by...

After finishing their ice creams, the two friends stay seated for a few more minutes to **observe** the life of the river. The heat of the day seems less **intense** now.

–Shall we come back here tomorrow? asks Elena getting up from the bench.

–**Certainly!** But next time I'll try pistachio and stracciatella, responds Chiara smiling.

The two girls get up and return toward the center, already thinking about tomorrow's ice cream.

Comprehension Check

1. In what month does the story take place? a) June b) July c) August d) September
2. What ice cream flavors does Elena get? a) Pistachio and stracciatella b) Chocolate and hazelnut c) Lemon and strawberry d) Lemon and pistachio
3. How much do the girls pay for the ice creams? a) Four euros b) Five euros c) Six euros d) Seven euros
4. Where do they go to eat the ice cream? a) In the park b) In the square c) Near the Arno River d) On the terrace
5. What do they do while eating the ice cream? a) Read a book b) Talk on the phone c) Watch people passing by d) Listen to music

Answers: 1-b, 2-c, 3-c, 4-c, 5-c

Story 5: The School Trip

Today is a **special** day for Marco's class: there's the **school trip** to Pisa! All the **students** are very **excited**. At eight in the morning they meet in front of the **school** with their **backpacks** full of **sandwiches** and water bottles.

Teacher Rossi counts all the students before getting on the **bus**.

–Are we all here? Twenty students? asks the teacher looking at her **list**.

–Yes, teacher! respond the kids in chorus.

The trip lasts an hour and a half. During the journey, the students **sing, joke around**, and look at the **landscape** from the window. Marco sits next to his **classmate**, Luca.

–I can't wait to see the **Tower of Pisa!** says Marco. Will it really be **leaning**?

–Of course! It's **famous** all over the world for that, responds Luca.

When the bus arrives in Pisa, everyone gets off with **enthusiasm**. The first thing they see is the large **square** with the tower, the **cathedral**, and the **baptistry**. It's an incredible **sight!**

–Wow! **Look** at that tower! shouts a **female student**. It's really crooked!

The Tower of Pisa is **fifty-six meters** tall and leans to one side. All the students take out their **cameras** and **phones** to take photos.

–Now let's take the **group photo!** says the teacher. All get together in front of the tower.

The students line up in **formation** in front of the tower. Some do the classic **pose**: they pretend to **push** the tower with their hands to keep it from falling.

–**Smile!** says the teacher taking many photos.

Marco and Luca do a funny pose: Marco pretends to hold the tower on his **shoulders** as if it were very **heavy**.

After the photos, the teacher explains the **history** of the tower. The students **listen** with **attention**.

–The tower was built in 1173, says the teacher. It's leaning because of the **soft ground** under its foundations.

At twelve-thirty it's **lunch** time. Everyone sits on the grass of the square and takes out their sandwiches. Marco brought a sandwich with **ham** and **cheese**.

–What a beautiful day for a **picnic**! says Marco biting his sandwich.

While eating, the students **giggle** and tell each other **jokes**. The **atmosphere** is very cheerful and **carefree**.

After lunch, the teacher gives the students some **free time** to **explore** the square. Marco, Luca, and other classmates go to see the cathedral and baptistry.

Suddenly, the teacher **realizes** that one student is missing: Davide!

–Where is Davide? she asks **worried**. Have you seen him?

The students look around, but Davide isn't there. The teacher starts to **look for** the boy calling his name.

–Davide! Davide! Where are you?

After five minutes of **searching**, they find Davide near a **souvenir shop**. The boy is buying a **postcard** with the image of the tower.

–There he is! shouts Marco **pointing** at Davide.

–Davide! Where had you gone? asks the teacher with **relief**. I was very worried!

–I'm sorry, teacher, responds Davide a bit **embarrassed**. I wanted to buy a postcard for my **grandmother**.

–Next time **let me know** before you go away from the group, says the teacher. It's important to stay all together.

At three in the afternoon it's time to go home. The students get on the bus with their **memories** and their photos. They're all tired but **happy**.

–It was the best trip of the year! says Marco looking at the photos on his phone.

–Yes, and we also had a bit of **adventure** with Davide getting lost! **laughs** Luca.

During the return trip, many students **fall asleep**. They're tired but satisfied with their day in Pisa.

The teacher smiles looking at her students sleeping. For her too it was an **unforgettable** day.

Comprehension Check

1. What time do the students meet in front of the school? a) At seven b) At eight
c) At nine d) At ten
2. How tall is the Tower of Pisa? a) Forty-five meters b) Fifty meters c) Fifty-six
meters d) Sixty meters
3. Who gets lost during the trip? a) Marco b) Luca c) The teacher d) Davide
4. Where do they find the missing student? a) In the cathedral b) In a bar c) In a
souvenir shop d) On the bus
5. What does the student buy for his grandmother? a) Ice cream b) A postcard c)
A book d) A notebook

Answers: 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-c, 5-b

What's next? See the next page →

Thank You & What's Next?

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Thanks again,

The MindSmith Team.