

1.13.1: Il verbo "piacere"

The verb to like

The verb **piacere** is analogous to the verb *to like* in English, but it really means *to be pleasing*.

In English one says: **I like risotto**. In Italian one says: **Mi piace il risotto**, which literally means **Risotto is pleasing to me**. It is a different way of expressing the same idea.

- The two most common forms of the verb **piacere** in the present tense are **piace** and **piacciono**.

piace + *singular noun*

Mi **piace** la pasta.

piace+ *one or more infinitives*

Mi **piace** mangiare bene.

piacciono + *plural noun*

Mi **piacciono** le linguine.

- When using the verb **piacere**, you must use the following pronouns to express the person(s) *to whom* a thing is pleasing:

mi or **a me** = *to me*

ci or **a noi** = *to us*

ti or **a te** = *to you (informal)*

vi or **a voi** = *to you (plural)*

gli or **a lui** = *to him*

gli or **a loro** = *to them*

le or **a lei** = *to her*

Le or **a Lei** = *to you (formal)*

- When using the name of the person, you must use **a + person's name**, i.e. **A Paolo piace la carne** [*Paolo likes meat*]. Later in the course we will also learn to express more complex ideas such as *My parents like...*
- Unlike in English, you must use **definite articles** when speaking of things you like or don't like, i.e. **Mi piace la pasta** [*I like pasta*] or **Ti piace il caffè?** [*Do you like coffee?*]
- To make a negative statement, simply place **non** before the pronoun, i.e. **Non mi piace la carne** or **Non ci piacciono le linguine**. BUT: **A me non piace la carne** and **A noi non piacciono le linguine**.
- To say "I like it," you simply say **Mi piace**. To say "I like them," you simply say **Mi piacciono**.

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