

# **Intercultural Learning in the Italian Classroom: Novice Italian 1 Lab 2**

## **Table of Contents:**

<b>Lab Overview .....</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>Pre-Lab PowerPoint: I Gesti.....</b>	<b>pp. 3-10</b>
<b>Homework Exercise: Sí/No.....</b>	<b>p. 11</b>
<b>Sí/No Explanation/Debrief.....</b>	<b>p. 12-27</b>
<b>Reflection Assignment.....</b>	<b>p. 28</b>

# I GESTI ITALIANI ITALIAN GESTURES

LABORATORIO INTERCULTURALE II  
ITAL 101  
UNIVERSITÀ DI PURDUE



In Intercultural Lab 2/ Lab Interculturale 2 "Sì/No - Yes/No," we will engage in multi-step activities that will help us understand and practice intercultural openness.

As an overview, here is the TO DO LIST for this sub-module:

1. Watch the video on "Italian Gestures" and practice gestures by following the instructions provided in the video (individual, 10 points)
2. Complete the written homework (fill-in-the-blanks exercise) (individual, 10 points)
3. Watch the Lab IC 2 instructions, then meet with your assigned partner and ask each other questions. You can use your cell phones (FaceTime, WhatsApp) or video conferencing tools (Zoom, Webex) for this video conversation with your partner. (pairs, 50 points)
4. In pairs, collaborate to post your answers to the debrief questions on the Discussions. (pairs, 30 points)
5. After you have completed Lab IC 2, your instructor will post a PowerPoint presentation on "Lab IC 2: Takeaways and Reflection Assignment Explanation." If you have in-person or synchronous classes, you will discuss the ppt in class/Zoom, if you are a distance learner or you missed class, you should view the ppt on your own (individual)
6. Post the Reflection Assignment on Lab IC 2 by the DUE DATE (individual, 100 points)

**IMPORTANT NOTE ON GRADING LAB ICC 2:** Lab ICC 2 is an experiential activity, which means that in order to get the maximum learning benefit from it, you must go through the entire experience, following every step. Because it is your individual learning experience that counts rather than the mastery of some external knowledge, this Lab ICC 2 is graded for COMPLETION only. This means that in order to receive full credit for this Lab, you must complete ALL the required steps in the order in which they are presented. Each step is worth a discrete number of points (see above). Please make sure you read the instructions carefully, so you do not skip any steps of the learning process. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor for further clarification.

# I GESTI ITALIANI

# ITALIAN GESTURES

LABORATORIO INTERCULTURALE II  
ITAL 101  
UNIVERSITÀ DI PURDUE

---



# HAI SENTITO DIRE CHE ... HAVE YOU HEARD PEOPLE SAY THAT ...

---

- Gli Italiani non parlano solo con le parole, ma anche con le mani (*hands*) e con tutto il corpo (*body*)? Visioniamo un video clip dal film *Mangia, prega, ama* (*Eat, Pray, Love*) con Julia Roberts!





# I GESTI SONO ARBITRARI

## GESTURES ARE ABITRARY

---

- Hai capito/*did you understand* **tutto**? Probabilmente hai capito un po' (*a little*), ma non tutto. Non ti preoccupare/*Don't worry!* Il significato dei **gesti** (del linguaggio **non verbale**) non è facilmente comprensibile alle persone di un'altra cultura, come si vede da questo [video](#).



# PROVIAMO A INDOVINARE!

## LET'S TRY TO GUESS!

---

1. Visioniamo questa **situazione** (stop at 2' 9'')

2. Avete capito? Cosa succede nel video? Proviamo a indovinare!

3. OK, proviamo adesso **con i sottotitoli** (with subtitles) (from 2' 9'' to the end)





A-3



**TOCCA A VOI!**

**IT'S YOUR TURN!**

**Abbina** (match) il gesto alle parole

- ① Zitto! Zitta! Silenzio!
- ② Siamo d'accordo? Intesi? OK!
- ③ Tutto bene! Tutto perfetto!
- ④ Non me ne importa niente!  
= Non me ne frega niente
- ⑤ Che fame!
- ⑥ Mmm, che buono!

1. Shh! Quiet!
2. OK!
3. All good! Perfect!
4. I don't care!
5. Sooo hungry! I'm starving!
6. Mmm, so good!

- ⑦ Che vuoi?
- ⑧ Sei matto! Sei matta!  
= Sei pazzo! Sei pazza!
- ⑨ Boh! Non lo so!
- ⑩ Come dici? Non ho sentito bene!
- ⑪ È costoso! = Costa caro! (segno dei soldi)

7. What do you want?
8. You're crazy! You're out of your mind!
9. I dunno.
10. What was that? I didn't hear you!
11. It's expensive! (\$\$\$ sign)

# PRATICHIAMO! LET'S PRACTICE!

Tutto bene! Tutto perfetto!  
All good! Perfect!



Non me ne frega niente!  
I don't care!



Che fame!  
Soo hungry! I'm  
starving!



Sei matto/a!  
You're crazy!



È costoso!  
It's expensive!  
(\$\$\$ sign)

Zitto/a!  
Silenzio!  
Shh! Quiet!



Siamo d'accordo? OK!  
Agreed! OK!



Come dici? Non ho  
sentito bene!  
What was that? I  
didn't hear you!



Boh! Non lo so!  
I dunno!



Che vuoi?  
What do you want?



Mmm, che buono!  
Mmm, so good!



# PARAGONIAMO LET'S COMPARE! MJ HA CAPITO BENE? DID MJ GET IT RIGHT?

---

- Questo video spiega (*explains*) la parola e il gesto “BOH” (click it!)
- In *Spider Man Far from Home*, MJ tells Peter she learned a new word – and it’s BOH! After watching the clip, do you think it is used appropriately? (watch from 2’30” to the end)



## REFERENCES

This Lab was adapted from an activity by Darla Deradorff in *Building Cultural Competence: Innovative Activities and Models*. Berardo and Deardorff eds. Sterling: Stylus Publishing, 2012. pp. 72-73. A version of this activity can be found in Purdue HubICL: <https://hubicl.org/toolbox/tools/82/objectives>

Photos of gestures: Bacci and Zambardino. *Un tuffo nell'Azzurro I*. Panozzo Editore, 2009.

Links to video clips:

- *Eat Pray Love* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjxqd6v8JzI>
- Babel guessing gestures <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ryi2rW6Psvg&t=109s>
- Alma TV "Il linguaggio dei gesti" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQquNGJMXe8&t=7s>
- Alma TV "Boh" e "Mah" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onjncDHoMDQ>
- *Spiderman Far from Home* "Boh" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHLADoBhl3c>



## ITAL 101

### Lab IC 2 Sì/No – Yes/No

#### Pre-Lab IC 2 Homework Questions and Exercise

**A. After viewing the video “I gesti italiani / The Italian gestures,” write three things that you have learned about the Italian nonverbal language**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**B. Read the questions and conjugate the verbs in parenthesis in **TU form**, so you can ask your friend some questions.**

Esempio:

(Avere) due fratelli? → **HAI** due fratelli?

(Andare) al cinema nel weekend? → **VAI** al cinema nel weekend?

1. (Avere) ..... 20 anni?
2. (Essere) ..... di Roma?
3. (Frequentare) ..... la facoltà di ingegneria?
4. (Suonare) ..... uno strumento?
5. (Parlare) ..... tre lingue?
6. (Abitare) ..... con un amico/un'amica?
7. (Andare) ..... in bici nel weekend?
8. (Leggere) ..... molti libri?
9. (Guardare) ..... molto la TV?
10. (Dormire) ..... molte ore nel weekend?



# SÌ/NO

# YES/NO

LABORATORIO INTERCULTURALE II  
ITAL 101 UNIVERSITÀ DI PURDUE

---



# **DEVELOPING THE INTERCULTURAL ATTITUDE OF OPENNESS - APERTURA**

---

- **The ability to:**
  - **initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others,**
  - **suspend judgment in valuing our interactions with culturally different others**



# **LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!**

## **CONOSCIAMOCI!**

---

### **BEFORE YOU MEET VIRTUALLY:**

- 1. Identify your assigned partner and exchange contact info or set up a date/time/mode for your virtual meeting.**
- 2. For this Lab IC 2, you must meet virtually with your partner. You can use your cell phones (FaceTime, WhatsApp, etc.) or video conferencing tools (Zoom, WebEx, Virtual Classroom, Skype, etc.) for this video conversation with your partner.**
- 3. Make sure you both have a copy of the completed Homework Exercise Lab IC 2 and access to this video/ Powerpoint presentation**





# LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

## CONOSCIAMOCI!

---

### DURING YOUR VIRTUAL MEETING:

1. Set up a virtual meeting with your assigned partner.
2. Take turns reading the questions off the handout and answer **with a complete yes/no sentence as quickly as you can.**
3. You **MUST** say yes/no and **MUST** use nonverbal head movements:  
**NOD** to indicate YES, and **SHAKE YOUR HEAD SIDE-TO-SIDE** to indicate NO

# LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

## CONOSCIAMOCI!

---



1. **HAI** 20 ANNI?
2. **SEI** DI ROMA?
3. **FREQUENTI** LA FACOLTÀ DI INGEGNERIA?
4. **SUONI** UNO STRUMENTO?
5. **PARLI** TRE LINGUE?
6. **ABITI** CON UN AMICO/UN'AMICA?
7. **VAI** IN BICI NEL WEEKEND?
8. **LEGGI** MOLTI LIBRI?
9. **GUARDI** MOLTO LA TV?
10. **DORMI** MOLTE ORE NEL WEEKEND?



# LET'S DO THIS AGAIN! RIFACCIAMOLO!

---

1. Let's do this again!
2. Take turns reading the same questions off the handout and answer with a complete yes/no sentence as quickly as you can.
3. You **MUST** say yes/no and **MUST** use nonverbal head movements

**ATTENTION! THIS TIME:**  
**SHAKE YOUR HEAD SIDE-TO-SIDE TO INDICATE YES, AND**  
**NOD TO INDICATE NO**



# LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

## CONOSCIAMOCI!

---



1. **HAI** 20 ANNI?
2. **SEI** DI ROMA?
3. **FREQUENTI** LA FACOLTÀ DI INGEGNERIA?
4. **SUONI** UNO STRUMENTO?
5. **PARLI** TRE LINGUE?
6. **ABITI** CON UN AMICO/UN'AMICA?
7. **VAI** IN BICI NEL WEEKEND?
8. **LEGGI** MOLTI LIBRI?
9. **GUARDI** MOLTO LA TV?
10. **DORMI** MOLTE ORE NEL WEEKEND?

## PAIR DISCUSSION: TIME TO DEBRIEF

---



People don't learn  
from experience. They  
learn from *reflecting*  
on their experience.

**John Dewey & Thiagi**

# PARLIAMONE: DISCUSSIONE LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: DEBRIEF **DISCUSS YOUR ANSWERS AND POST THEM TO THE DISCUSSION FORUM**

---

1. What happened?
2. What did you notice about the second round?
3. How did you feel about using a different nonverbal method to mean *yes* and *no* in the second round? How did you feel about seeing the nonverbal communication in your partner? What did you learn about your partner – what do you remember about his/her answers?
4. What happens when nonverbal communication contradicts verbal communication?
5. **Cultural conditioning is a process in which our culture influences and defines our values, beliefs, worldview etc.** What is the impact of our cultural conditioning in interacting with others?
6. As you reflect on this activity, what are some of the things you can take away?



# **TAKEAWAYS: ON NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION**

## **CONCLUSIONI: SULLA COMUNICAZIONE NON-VERBALE**



- Cultural conditioning is a process in which our culture influences and defines our values, beliefs, worldview etc.
- What is the impact of our cultural conditioning on our interactions with (culturally different) others?
- This activity made us aware how the nonverbal communication is also a function of cultural conditioning: culture determines even certain basics like nodding and shaking our heads.
- We may encounter dissonance between verbal and nonverbal communication in other cultures.

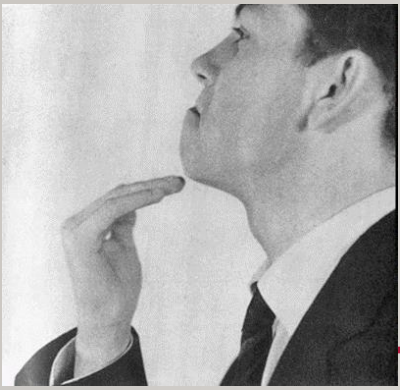
# TAKEAWAYS: ON OPENNESS CONCLUSIONI: SULL'APERTURA

---



What does this have to do with Intercultural Openness?

- Our cultural conditioning **feels natural and normal** to us; when asked to do something contrary to our cultural conditioning, it can **feel unnatural and frustrating**, and may mean that now **we need to think consciously about what we're doing**.
- When we're asked to do something outside of our cultural conditioning, **it may not be easy** for us. We need to build the skills and strategies of intercultural openness and emotional resilience, so that even when we get frustrated, we can **stay open to communication**.



# TAKEAWAYS: ON ITALIAN GESTURES

## CONCLUSIONI: SUI GESTI ITALIANI

---

What does this have to do with the Italian language and culture?

- Culture determines our nonverbal communication, and an example of that are certainly the **Italian gestures**. After we discussed the Italian gestures in class, we agreed that some of them, or even most of them, are not immediately comprehensible to people from other cultures.
- **The first step** is to learn how to recognize the Italian gestures so that you can understand their meaning and comprehend the communicative situation → **we did this in class together!**
- **The second step** is to attempt to include gestures in your own style of communication in Italian – it indicates your openness to the culture: your willingness to (temporarily) modify your customary behavior in interactions with Italians, and your attempt at suspending judgment in your interactions with the Italians → **let's practice it now!**



# TI RICORDI? DO YOU REMEMBER?

Che fame!

Soo hungry! I'm starving!

Sei matto/a!  
You're crazy!

Tutto bene! Tutto perfetto!  
All good! Perfect!

Non me ne frega niente!  
I don't care!



Siamo d'accordo? OK!  
Agreed! OK!

Come dici? Non ho sentito bene!  
What was that? I didn't hear you!

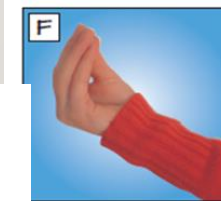


È costoso!  
It's expensive!  
(\$\$\$ sign)

Zitto/a!  
Silenzio!  
Shh! Quiet!



Boh! Non lo so!  
I dunno!



Che vuoi?  
What do you want?



Mmm, che buono!  
Mmm, so good!

# IT'S YOUR TURN NOW

## ADESSO TOCCA A VOI

---

Can you recall the Italian gestures? Try acting out the following dialogues using the correct gestures.

### FRANCESCO

Dove vai?

Oggi non voglio andare a scuola!

Quando vai ad aiutare Marina?

**Siamo d'accordo? Tutto OK?**

Come sono le lasagne?

A che ora comincia la partita?

Allora, compri le scarpe di Prada?

### SOFIA

**Ho fame**, vado a mangiare due spaghetti ...

Oh, ma **sei matto**?

Non ci vado! **Non me ne frega niente** di lei!

**Tutto perfetto!**

**Mmm, che buone!**

**Boh, non lo so!**

Mi dispiace, **sono troppo care (non ho soldi).**



# WHAT DID **YOU** TAKE AWAY FROM THIS? **REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT ON YES/NO**

---

- **Goals:** This assignment is intended to help you process what you have learned in Intercultural Lab 2, to give you an opportunity to deepen your reflection on what you've learned, and to help you increase your Intercultural Openness.
- **Instructions:** Complete the Reflection Assignment posted on Brightspace and turn it in by the **DUE DATE**
- **Grading:** There is no right or wrong answer in this type of assignment. This credit for this assignment will be awarded according to the following criteria: Completion (thoroughness of your answers), Curiosity (complexity of questions you attempt to ask), and Effort (your effort in developing the skill). The credit you receive describes **the effort you put into reflecting** on the IC skill of openness. It will be part of your overall Intercultural Learning grade.
- **Tips:** Aim to be detailed, thorough, honest, and insightful in your answers. Write in complete sentences. Aim to have at least 100 words for each question.





## LAB IC 2 REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT:

- How did you feel about using a different nonverbal method to mean yes and no during our activity? What have you noticed about your partner's feelings? How did this different nonverbal method affect your communication with your partner?
- How does this exercise relate to a real-life situation? How might it apply in a real-life setting?
- How did it feel to use the Italian gestures? What did you most struggle with? Why do you think this was the most difficult aspect for you? Do you think you would be able to adopt the Italian style of nonverbal communication? What changes/adaptations to your usual behavior and style of communication would you have to make?

## **Reflection assignment on Intercultural Lab 2: “Sì/No”**

### **Riflessione sul Laboratorio Interculturale 2: “Yes/No”**

**Goals:** This assignment is intended to help you process what you have learned in Intercultural Lab 2, to give you an opportunity to deepen your reflection on what you’ve learned, and to help you increase your Intercultural Openness.

**Instructions:** Complete the Reflection Assignment post it to Brightspace by the **DUE DATE**

**Grading:** There is no right or wrong answer in this type of assignment. Credit for this assignment will be awarded according to the following criteria: Completion (thoroughness of your answers), Curiosity (complexity of questions you attempt to ask), and Effort (your effort in developing the skill). The credit you receive describes **the effort you put into reflecting** on the IC skill of openness. The grade will be part of your overall Intercultural Learning grade.

**Tips:** Aim to be detailed, thorough, honest, and insightful in your answers. Write in complete sentences. Aim to have at least 100 words for each question.

#### Reflection Assignment Questions:

- How did you feel about using a different nonverbal method to mean yes and no during our activity? What have you noticed about your partner’s feelings? How did this different nonverbal method affect your communication with your partner?
- How does this exercise relate to a real-life\_situation? How might it apply in a real-life setting?
- How did it feel to use the Italian gestures? What did you most struggle with? Why do you think this was the most difficult aspect for you? Do you think you would be able to adopt the Italian style of nonverbal communication? What changes/adaptations to your usual behavior and style of communication would you have to make?