

# Preface

**T**he textbook *Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*, is the result of a twenty-year-old experience in teaching the Italian language. In a world where not only markets but also languages are being “globalized” this work intends to make a contribution to the valuation of the Italian culture.

The present volume is based on the revision of the teaching material used by the Centro di Lingua e Cultura Italiana Pier Paolo Pasolini, by some Volkshochschulen (German Adult Education Schools) and by smaller language schools.

Four works have been published so far namely *Conoscersi* (vols. I and II, 1981), *L'italiano moderno* (vol. I, 1990), *Corso Superiore* (1993) and *Materiali per corsi superiori* (2000).

*Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*, a textbook of the Italian language for foreign students, has been worked out based on these teaching materials. It starts by conveying primary basic structures and then leads to the intermediate level. This is followed by another book: this gradual construction is destined for students who want to consolidate their knowledge of grammar, syntax and vocabulary.

*Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*, has gathered the various didactic ideas matured over the past decade and provides the student with the possibility of learning the Italian language in an uncomplicated and well structured way. The book provides the teacher with material, stimulation and ideas guaranteeing an optimal start in an original and up-to-date way containing grammar examples, exercises and texts.

*Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*, resulted from the invaluable and active assistance of Dr. Michela Gualtieri, Dr. Valentina Mannari, Dr. Alessandra Potenti, Dr. Marzia Tani, Prof. Mario Carrozzo and of all teachers at the *Centro di Lingua e Cultura Italiana Pier Paolo Pasolini*. We thank Dr. Simona Provinciali for the graphic design. We also thank the following publishers who kindly put some texts at our disposal: Editori Riuniti for *Tante storie per giocare* (2000), *Venti storie più una* (2000), *Gelsomino nel paese dei bugiardi* (2000) by Gianni Rodari; Rizzoli Publishers for some extracts from the work *In punta di lingua* (1992) by Cesare Marchi. Special thanks to the author's heirs.

THE AUTHOR

# Introduction

There is a variety of reasons why so many people from all around the world are showing growing interest in the Italian language. They study it because of their college or work, because of their affection for the culture, the arts, the fashion, the cuisine and the Italian way of life, or simply in order to get by during their vacation. ***Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*** takes all these into account. The volume employs a particular teaching method that comprehends the study of the language as part of an extensive approach of our country's culture – this is the reason for the references to culture, history and art, to Italian movies, politics and tradition, cuisine and music.

***Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*** provides language skills for an appropriate spoken as well as written communication.

This textbook attaches great importance to the spoken language emphasizing the grammatical structure.

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***Mondo Italia - Basic and Intermediate Levels*** is divided in 19 units and makes the student get used progressively to even more complex structures. In the beginning are the first elements of basic communication (getting to know someone or introducing oneself), then follow grammar features of medium difficulty like future, direct and indirect pronouns.

This work is organized in three different learning phases:

1. Phase one involves the first eight units. They are intended for absolute beginners and require no previous knowledge of syntax or vocabulary. The objective is to conveying basic knowledge of communication in everyday situations.
2. The units nine until twelve are built up on the first part. They include the two most important past tenses used in the spoken language – imperfect and perfect – and are intended for all those who have already attended a at least two weeks long intensive course or a six months evening course (once a week), who have basic language skills and can express themselves in the present tense.
3. The third part, units 13 to 15, is considered to be intermediate level. It is intended for those who have already acquired the skills of language expression and master both past tenses. The third part is dedicated to the remaining tenses and pronouns.
4. The units 16 to 19 involve the reading of current issues, entertaining texts by Italian authors on set phrases, idioms and interjections that are useful for the learning of new expressions, for a larger vocabulary and for conversation.

At the end of the course the students will have acquired average language knowledge and will be able to take part in talks and discussions about the most different issues. Grammar is added to each unit in order to make memorizing and consolidation easier.

### *Instructions for using the book*

1. The phrases in the exercises of grammar are formulated in a logical sense. However this sense may not be conclusive since a general context is not present.
2. The blanks to be filled in are marked with dots. They indicate only an empty space. The number of dots does not correspond to the number of missing letters, syllables or words.
3. We suggest to use a notebook. Training by writing helps learning grammar and orthography. The correction of these exercises take place during the classes or with the aid of answers at the end of the book.
4. Some sentences, idioms and grammatical definitions have been translated literally where it ended up being difficult or impossible to find an appropriate equivalent.
5. For graphic design reasons the use of capital letters in the german translation in the glossary does not correspond to the orthographic rules.