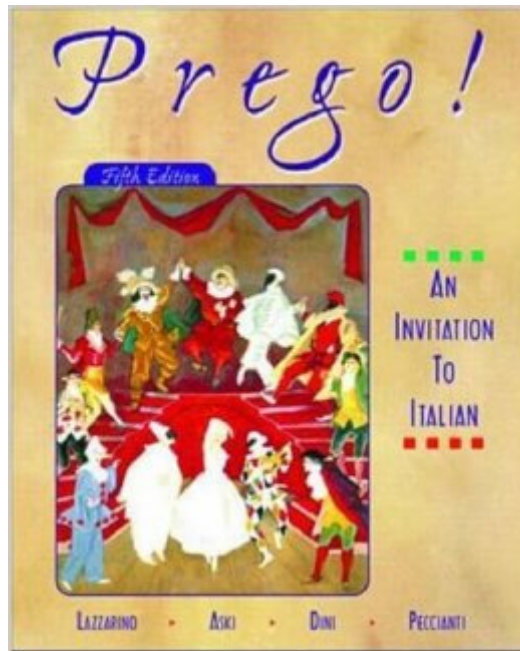


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# Prego! An Invitation To Italian (Student Edition + Listening Comprehension Audio CD)



## Synopsis

This best-selling beginning Italian text offers a four-skills and communicative introduction to Italian language and culture. Three new co-authors join the most exciting and significant revision since the book's inception in 1980. The text provides communicative activities and a streamlined vocabulary and grammar presentation. The fifth edition captures contemporary Italian culture within a beautiful new design. The package for Prego! is now state of the art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

sells the book without the book key which gives access to online content (video, conversation exercises, etc). Books sold at campus bookstores are sold with a book key. Without the book key you have to pay \$52 more to get online access.

As a former student, and now teacher of first year Italian at the university level, I found the previous editions of Prego! to be far superior than any other college Italian text available. I was, however, very disappointed by this edition and the number of mistakes and poor editing I found. Gone are the tables and charts which were so helpful. The literature sections are far too complicated for the beginner student. Had I been able to see this edition ahead of the deadline for ordering texts by beginning of the semester, I would have seriously considered other options.

The costs of this book has dramatically increased, making the streamlined and visually appealing

content not worth the added costs (especially with used prices going as low as \$7 for prior editions). The supplementary material (DVD, Audio CD, Student workbook) have been moved online, with the videos in Flash media content (not accessible to 250+ million Apple gadgets and others that don't use the bugalicious virus-trojan-enabling Flash plug-in). The workbook will run about \$80 for access, and is included in the \$200+ package, which is perfect for exploiting students! The prior 7e version is more reasonable in costs, with supplementary media (separately sold) that is easily converted into a format that you can be viewed offline on any device or computer. I am guessing that there are others that like to study offline and not be tethered to a computer to do exercises or view content.

The book came without online access, and is not nearly as good as other more comprehensive programs. The partner McGraw Hill chose to create online content has a site that is not user friendly. There is no easy means to figure out how to buy the correct key code to get online access with your book. I don't mind paying for a program that works, ie one that makes it easy for self study, but I do mind paying for this product. Like with Cengage products, everything is designed to recruit a teacher to adopt an entire course with the online content. If teacher does not do this, the student can and will often remain confused, as it is difficult and expensive to acquire the a/v program that comes with this book. This is a horrible paradigm. Traditional college language study involves classroom, text and lab. The language lab has evolved to include multimedia instruction, and after this quality material was produced, some publishers found a way to parcel it out to students in successively more expensive products. Pearson produces texts and makes it easy for students to find the online material. They design their courses to work with both classroom and self-study. The latter is a smarter approach as many of these courses are going online. If you are a working with an individual teacher or teaching yourself, I would avoid this text.

I took 3 semesters of Italian, with each semester covering 1/3 of the book, so I completed the entire book. This book is good if you follow it in a traditional classroom setting, especially since the professor pointed out all the mistakes in this book, which unfortunately, are quite numerous for a textbook. I have also checked out the 4th edition, which is much better than this one as it is better structured and contains useful charts, (which are now omitted) and is thoroughly proofread. The 6th edition just came out, so hopefully it is an improvement from the 5th.

I read this entire book across two college semesters before moving to Italy. After having spent \$500 or so on Italian language books, this is one of the few that was worth the money. Even though I

speak fluently, I still refer to this book frequently to resolve difficult tense questions or clarify grammar details. I highly recommend this book to any serious student.

This book has proven the most helpful language book that I have ever used. The grammar is clearly presented and the text is interesting. Most importantly, it teaches Italian as it is spoken in Italy. Finally, there are numerous realistic and clearly helpful exercises at the end of each chapter. Yes, the price is high but I believe that one would need to use several other books in combination to achieve the level of this book. It will continue to help even advanced students of Italian.

This book leaves a lot to be desired. The set up of the book is something that could be improved and certain concepts could definitely be expanded and explained better. My teacher definitely had to fill in MANY gaps that this book left and had to expand on concepts that were not fully developed. It wasn't terrible, but could be way better.

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