

A-Z for Italian AB/Italian B

by Beatrice Parolin

An independent book review

It is always a pleasure to hear of the publication of a new book that can help students and teachers of Italian around the world, so I was delighted to learn of this new vocabulary book published by Elemi.

The book is clearly organized and presented, beginning with the 5 IB language acquisition themes (*Identità, Esperienze, Ingegno umano, Organizzazioni sociali and Condividere il pianeta*) and under each section organized by the optional recommend topics.

Vocabulary for each topic is graded and clearly marked as either '*Vocabolario di base*' or '*Vocabolario avanzato*' and at the end of each section there are useful phrases which can be easily learned and which rather usefully illustrate grammatical points suitable to each level. For example, the first section illustrates the use of 'present tense ...da' (such a nightmare for anglophone learners) while the advanced includes examples of subjunctive usage. The final part, '*Vocabolario utile*', not only has the very basic of vocabulary and expressions but also includes sections related to the oral and written tests, clearly developed with the tasks expected of the students (such as commenting on an image or presenting a literary text, or composing text types such as letters, emails, or speeches).

The vocabulary for each level is well chosen, even exhaustive, and also up to date as one might expect from a publication tied to the current IB curriculum. I would go as far as to say that this book will be an essential tool for IB students of Italian. But I would also suggest that it would be equally useful for anglophone students on other courses such as GCSE or A Level not least because *Parola per Parola* is now out of print.

So, in summary this book is an invaluable addition to the resources available to teachers and students of Italian. Highly recommended.

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August 2025