



How To Use Bene, Buono, Bravo and Bello

Bene

Bene is an adverb, an element of language that is usually used to add more information about a verb. In particular, *bene* is an adverb of manner and this means that it describes how an action is done or how something happens. Needless to say, ***bene* is always used with a verb.**

In particular, *bene* means well, so it means that the action described by the verb is done in a skillful or effective way. I have just written that *bene* is always used with a verb but there is one exception: the verb *essere*. *Essere* is used to describe something or someone, it doesn't refer to actions, so it needs to be followed by an adjective.

So you cannot say: "*il tempo è bene*", "*il fine settimana è stato bene*", or "*io sono bene*". Instead, you can say: "*il tempo è bello*", "*il fine settimana è stato bello*", or "*io sto bene*".

Let's see some examples with *bene*:

"*Io parlo bene italiano*" (I speak Italian very well)

"*Mi sento molto bene questa mattina*" (I feel really good this morning)

"*Le vacanze sono andate bene, ci siamo divertiti molto*" (Our holidays went well, we had a lot of fun).

Please note: many students tend to translate "Ok" with "*va bene*", which is absolutely correct. But then they use the expression "*è va bene*" to translate "it's ok" but "*va*" means *andare*, so you don't need to use "it's". If you say "*va bene*", it already means "it's ok".

Buono

Buono is an adjective and this means that it describes the qualities or states of being of nouns. In particular, *buono* is used to describe **the high quality of something**, usually in reference to food (but not only). If *buono* is used to describe a person, it means that that person is good at heart.

Being an adjective, *buono* agrees in gender and number with the noun and it can be: *buono, buona, buoni, buone*.

Here are some examples:

“Questo è il gelato più buono che abbia mai mangiato” (This is the best ice-cream I have ever had)

“Di solito, il tempo è buono in questo periodo dell’anno” (The weather is usually good at this time of the year)

“Mio papà è davvero una persona molto buona” (My father is very good at heart)

Bravo

Bravo is an adjective as well and it is used in reference to people only. In fact, it is used to describe **the ability of someone to do something**, in particular, the ability to do something well. Just like *buono*, *bravo* agrees in gender and number with the nouns and it can become: *bravo, brava, bravi, brave*.

Pay attention: if *bravo* is used before the noun, its meaning changes. In fact, *“una brava ragazza”* is a girl who behaves well, who is polite and kind.

“Marco è molto bravo a parlare italiano” (Marco speaks Italian really well)

“Quest’anno abbiamo un professore davvero bravo, ci sta insegnando tantissimo” (This year we have a really good teacher, he’s teaching us a lot!)

“Francesca era una brava ragazza, ma adesso è diventata un po’ ribelle” (Francesca used to be a very good girl, but she’s a bit of a rebel now)

Bello

Bello is another adjective and it is used to describe **something that pleases the senses or the mind aesthetically**, something that is generally pleasing and excellent. Being an adjective, *bello* agrees in gender and number with the noun it refers to and can be: *bello, bella, belli, belle*.

“Mio figlio è un bellissimo bambino, lo dicono tutti!” (My son is a very beautiful baby, everybody says that!)

“Siamo stati in Scozia e ci è piaciuta moltissimo. È davvero un bel paese” (We have been to Scotland and we liked it a lot. It’s a really nice country)

“Ho letto un bel libro recentemente” (I have read a very good book recently)

