



## ***How To Use Pronominal Verbs in Italian***

Pronominal verbs are verbs that combine **a verb and one or two pronouns**, which are added to the infinitive of the verbs and slightly change the meaning of the verb itself. For example, the verb *mettere* means to put but if you add *ci* to it, it becomes *metterci*, which refers to the time it takes someone to do something.

The pronouns that can be added to a verb and make it pronominal are a few: ***si, ci, la, le, ne***. When those pronouns are combined, *si* changes into *se* and *ci* changes into *ce*, so there are forms like *sela (si + la)*, *cela (ci + la)*, *sene (si + ne)*, *cene (ci + ne)*. If using a pronominal verb with one pronoun is difficult, one with two is definitely very confusing! But we'll focus on that later.

Now let's see what are the most common pronominal verbs in Italian.

Verbs with – *si*: *pentirsi, vergognarsi, accorgersi, imbattersi, ribellarsi*

*Ho sbagliato, ma ora mi sono pentita* (I made a mistake but I feel sorry now)

*Mi vergogno di quello che ho fatto* (I am ashamed of what I did)

*Mi sono accorta di aver sbagliato* (I've realized I made a mistake)

*Stamattina mi sono imbattuta in Franco* (I ran into Franco this morning)

*È ora di ribellarsi: non puoi andare avanti così!* (It's time to rebel: you can't go on like this!)

Verbs with – *ci*: *volerci, metterci, arrivarci, entrarci, cascarci*

*Ci vuole un'ora per andare da Genova a Milano* (It takes an hour to go from Genoa to Milan)

*Io ci ho messo un'ora per arrivare perché c'era sciopero* (It took me an hour to get here because there was a strike)

*Non ci arrivi proprio? Non so come sia possibile!* (You really don't understand? I don't know how it is possible)

*Quello non c'entra con cosa ti ho detto* (That doesn't have anything to do with what I said)

*Ci sono cascata! Mi ha ingannata!* (I fell for it! He fooled me)

Verbs with – la: *finirla, piantarla, spuntarla*

*Finiscila! Smettila di lamentarti!* (Stop it! Stop whining)

*La pianti? Stai ripetendo la stessa cosa da un'ora* (Can you stop it? You have been repeating the same thing for an hour)

*È stato difficile, ma alla fine l'ho spuntata: il venditore mi ha fatto lo sconto* (It's been difficult but I won: the seller gave me a discount)

Verbs with – le: *prenderle, suonarle*

*Ho litigato con mio fratello e le ho anche prese* (I had a fight with my brother and he beat me up)

*Era grosso ma gliel'ho suonate, hai visto?* (He was big but I beat him up, did you see?)

Verbs with – sela: *prendersela, cavarsela, cercarsela, sbrigarsela, tirarsela, spassarsela, sentirsela*

*Non prendertela, andrà meglio il prossimo anno* (Don't be sad, it will be better next year)

*L'esame è difficile, ma me la sono cavata* (The exam was difficult, but I somehow managed to pass it)

*Te la sei proprio cercata eh? La prossima volta impari a non litigare con quelli più grossi di te* (You have really asked for it, haven't you? Next time you'll learn not to fight with guys who are bigger than you)

*Sbrigatela da solo, non posso aiutarti* (Sort it out on your own, I can't help you)

*Quella ragazza se la tira tantissimo!* (That girl really shows off)

*Ieri sera alla festa ce la siamo proprio spassata* (We had a lot of fun yesterday night at the party)

*Non me la sento di andare a vivere all'estero* (I don't have the courage to go and live abroad)

Verbs with – cela: *avercela, farcela*

*Non avercela con me, non ho fatto nulla* (Don't be mad at me, I haven't done anything)

*Non ce la faccio più, questa situazione è troppo difficile* (I am exhausted, I can't do this anymore. This situation is too difficult for me)

Verbs with – sene: *andarsene, fregarsene, intendersene, restarsene, tornarsene*

*Sono stufo, me ne vado!* (I am fed up, I'll leave!)

*Io me ne frego di quello che è successo* (I don't give a damn about what happened)

*Dobbiamo chiedere al mio amico, lui se ne intende di vino* (We have to ask our friend, he's a wine expert)

*Sono stanca, stasera me ne resto a casa* (I am tired, I stay home tonight)

*Tornatene a casa, nessuno ti vuole qui!* (Go back home, nobody wants you here!)

As we have just seen, pronominal verbs are a combination of a verb and one or two pronouns. When you conjugate the verb, **you need to separate the pronouns from the verb, place them before the verb and conjugate the verb as you normally do with other verbs.**

For example: *metterci* combines *mettere* with *ci*. If you want to conjugate the verb, you separate *ci* from the verb and place it before the verb as in *ci metto, ci ho messo, ci mettevo, ci metterò*.

If you have a verb with two pronouns, like *farcela*, for examples, which combines the verb *fare* with *ce* and *la*, you separate the pronouns and place them before the verb as in *ce la faccio, ce l'ho fatta, ce la facevo, ce la farò* and so on.

Keep in mind that *ci, ce, la, ne* never change, so once you remember to place them before the noun you are done. But if you have a verb with **SE**, you have to remember to decline the pronoun in the reflexive form. An example could be the verb *andarsene*, which becomes *io me ne vado, tu te ne vai, lui se ne va, noi ce ne andiamo, voi ve ne andate, loro se ne vanno*.

