



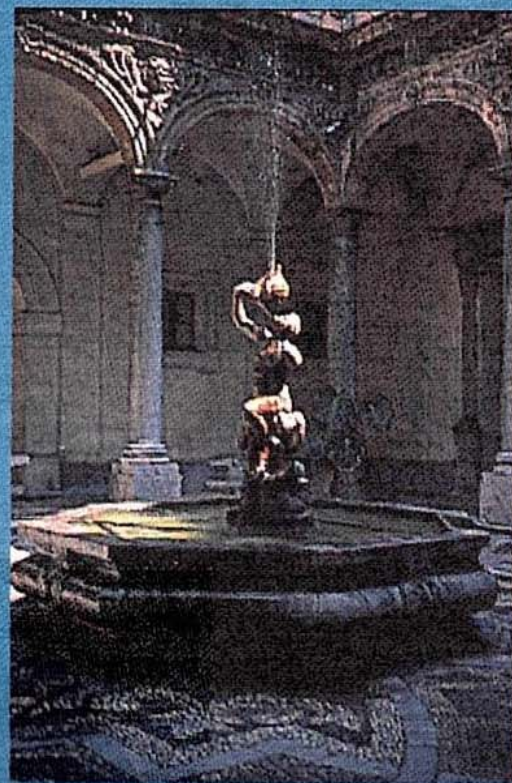
A retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer and former university professor, Dr. Joseph F. Privitera has devoted a lifetime to language study and research. His *Basic Sicilian* is the only reference grammar of the Sicilian dialect to be published in this century, since a compilation of folklore in 1905.

Edmond Mellen

BASIC SICILIAN

A BRIEF REFERENCE GRAMMAR

BY JOSEPH F. PRIVITERA



BASIC SICILIAN

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A Brief Reference Grammar

Cover:

Beautiful fountain in Monreale,
the historic city which lies above Palermo,
the capital of Sicily.

Photo by Joseph F. Privitera

Joseph F. Privitera

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PREFACE

Sicilian is not a dialect. Like Italian, it is a language derived directly from Latin. For political reasons, like some 450 other tongues spoken throughout Italy, also derived from Latin, it is called a dialect. Since there can be only one official language in a country; all other idioms are relegated to the status of dialect.

Because Italian has served as the country's official language since the thirteenth century, when it was first used as the *lingua nova* by Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, it has been refined and bound by a set of grammatical rules. Honed down to beauty of sound and sight, it has become the favorite language of music.

Italy's other Latin "languages," however, have not been accorded the same respect and deference as has the official tongue, for, as dialects, they have remained the undisciplined *lingua franca* of the people, without the blessing and acceptance of the literati. Dictator Benito Mussolini dreamed of creating a Greater Italy in the shadow of Rome, and, with utter scorn for Italy's dialects, made every effort to suppress and eliminate them. But he failed, because no one, neither government nor individual, can ever shackle the *vox populi*, a people's very life blood.

However, he need never have tried, for what he failed to accomplish, with official decree and political pressure, has come about through education, radio, TV, a higher standard of living, and almost total literacy. Now that Italian is universally used, the dialects are fast disappearing.

In a frantic effort to salvage some aspect of this rich language treasure, scholars are busy writing dictionaries and grammars of their regional dialects. Dialectology, a new language discipline, is now flourishing throughout Italy and is responsible for learned studies tracing a dialect's emergence and development from Latin, anthologies of its scant writings, the poetry of native sons, dictionaries, regional word lists and grammars.

One wonders why, despite a fairly active dialectology, no modern Sicilian grammar has yet been published on the island since the one written by folklorist Pitrè appeared in the first decade of the twentieth century. But that sole attempt at a reasoned grammar soon disappeared from sight for lack of interest and, since then, none has seen the light of day anywhere.

The grammar we now publish, the only one in this century since Pitrè, is meant to fill that need and to serve as a record of the dialect when, in the very near future, it will have disappeared completely. We trust it will also serve as a guide to linguists interested in the sight and sound of Sicilian.

What we offer in this compilation is not a set of rules and exercises, designed for the learning of Sicilian in the classroom, but a brief compendium of the basic tenets of its grammar to which Sicilian-Americans, scholars and others may refer for the correct speech forms. It is arranged, therefore, in a classical, grammatical form, easy of access and handy to use.

We must underscore the fact that the present study offers a "pure" version of Sicilian, which eliminates, to the greatest extent possible, the borrowings from current Italian, as found in the classroom, on TV and radio, the press, and the printed word, in general. Thus, to cite but one example, our grammar does not have

the future or conditional tenses, for these are Sicilian's false friends, on loan from Italian. As the reader will see, we revert to the original vivid present for the future, and the imperfect subjunctive, for the conditional.

To be sure, the Sicilian dialect is made up of scores of different sub-dialects, whose expressions, grammatical forms and idioms differ from one town, village or province to another. Because Sicilian, like all other dialects, has never been reined in and standardized by a set of rules, it has developed at random from east to west and north to south. A citizen of Messina and one from Palermo will understand each other perfectly, but each will pronounce the dialect with the accent and local expressions used by his neighbors. Yet, both will acknowledge that each is speaking Sicilian, in his own way.

Since, in effect, there is no General Sicilian, we must compromise and settle on a format which is understood by all throughout the island and spoken by most. It is generally agreed that Corleone's dialect best fits that description. According to Professor Gaetano de Gregorio, one of the island's early language scholars, "the fact is that the purest form of Sicilian is spoken in Corleone." (*certo è... che a Corleone si parla il pretto siciliano.*)

In the Preface to his *Phonology of the Sicilian Dialects*, (Catholic University, 1934), Dr. Ducibella accepts this opinion and adds that "in each... category we have treated first the development of *General Sicilian* [that is, Corleonese]. By *General Sicilian* we understand that speech which is predominant in the popular Sicilian literature and which is commonly understood, if not spoken, in the greatest part of the island." Dr. Ducibella covers the regional variants in a sub-section to each heading.

*

Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936), the 1934 Nobel Laureate for Literature, was a Sicilian who spoke of his dialect as *meine süsse Muttersprache*, my sweet mother tongue. He used the German expression while doing graduate work at the University of Bonn, where he was awarded a Ph.D. for writing a dissertation on the phonological development, from Latin, of the dialect of Girgenti, his native city.

Though his major work was written in Italian, he remained a Sicilian at heart. In the belief that a dialect can properly serve as a literary medium, Pirandello wrote twelve of his early plays, some, true masterpieces, in Sicilian. As it happens, this has come to be a last gasp as the curtain slowly falls on the dialect.

We are pleased to dedicate this study to the proud Sicilian and pre-eminent Italian, Luigi Pirandello

ABBREVIATIONS

adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
conj.	conjunction
def. art.	definite article
indef.art.	indefinite article
f.	feminine
m.	masculine
n.	noun
pl.	plural
prep.	preposition
pret.	preterite
pron.	pronoun
sing.	singular
vb.	verb

PRONUNCIATION

We have adopted the pronunciation of the Corleone area, which, as noted earlier, Dr. Ducibella observed is the most representative of General Sicilian. Widely used alternate lexicons are given in brackets [].

VOWELS

The spelling of words (the orthography) is the same as in Italian: **chiù**, **iddu**, **me patri**. The stress falls on the next to the last syllable (penult): **parru**, *I speak*. Otherwise, stress is indicated by a bolderized, italicized vowel, **parranu**, *they speak*.

a like *a* in 'father': as in **patri**, **matri**, **favi**.

e like *e* in 'best': as in **bedda**. Phonetically, this is an open *e*.

i like *ea* in 'beast': as in **kiddu**.

ĩ like *i* in 'fit,': as in **fíc ĩnu**. This short *i* appears in unstressed syllables. It is not found in Italian.

j is pronounced like *i*, as in **ju**, *I*.

o like *aw* in 'claw': as in **tò**, **sò**. Phonetically, this is an open *o*.

u almost like *o* in Eng. 'to': as in **tuttu**, **unu**.

CONSONANTS

b, f, l, m, n, p, q, t, v are pronounced as in English.

c, before *e* or *i*, sounds like *ch* in 'choose', as in **duci**, *sweet*.; elsewhere it is always like English *k*: as in **cicàra**, *cup*; **comu**, *how*.

d, like *d* in Italian 'dove': as in **dannu**. But, at times, it will also sound like a softly trilled *r* both in initial position and between vowels; it is formed by the vibration of the tongue against the hard palate: as in **dumani**, *tomorrow*, **pedi**, *foot*. Double **dd** is soft when it appears between two vowels (intervocalic): as in **iddu**, *he*.

g, before *e* or *i*, sounds like *g* in 'George'; **gelu**, *frost*; **già**, *already*. Otherwise it is always like *g* in 'gone': as in **gattu**, *cat*.

h is always silent: as in **hannu**, *they have*. It was pronounced in

Latin (aspirate), but was dropped in its offspring languages, which may retain the spelling, but not the sound.

i, unaccented, before a vowel, is pronounced like English *y*: as **aiutu**, *help*; **chiù**, *more*. Also pronounced like Eng. *y* when between two vowels (intervocalic), **vaiu**, *I go*.

n before a **q** or a hard **c** or **g** sounds like English *ng* (*wing*): as **bancu** (*bang-ku*), *bench*; **longu** (*long-gu*), *long*; **cinquanta** (*cing-kwanta*), *fifty*.

r, when single, is formed with a quick flip of the tongue on the palate behind the front teeth: as **caru**, *dear*; **puru**, *pure*.

When **r** is double, or when it is the first letter in a word, the tongue is suspended between the roof and the bottom of the mouth, not touching either; its sides are curved against the

sides of the mouth, while the tip is rounded to let the air escape: as in **rota**, *wheel*; **carru**, *cart*. **s** is pronounced like English *s* in 'soon,' but with a much sharper sound: as **sulu**, *alone*; **spina**, *thorn*.

s before a sonant (**b, d, g, l, m, n, r, v**) sounds like English *z*: as **sbirru**, *cop*; **sdegnu**, *scorn*; **sgranari**, *to shell*; **slitta**, *sleigh*; **smaltu**, *enamel*; **snellu**, *slender*; **sradicari**, *to uproot*; **sveltu**, *quick, alert*.

Double **s** is pronounced like English *s* in 'see': as in **chissu**, *that one*.

u, unaccented, before a vowel, sounds like English *w*.: as in **quannu** (*kwannu*), *when*; **quattru**, *four*.

z and **zz** are generally pronounced like a long and vigorous *ts*: as in **ziu**, *uncle*, **prezzu**, *price*.

In the following words, however, **z** and **zz** are pronounced like a prolonged **dz**, **azzurru**, **duzzina**, **menzu**,

Note these combinations:

ch (used only before an *e* or *i*) is like English *k*: as **chi**, *what*; **chianu**, *flat, plain*.

gghi, when followed by a consonant, is like English *g* in 'go': as **agghicari**, *to arrive*. When followed by a vowel, it has a *g* (as in Eng. *go*) and *y* (as in English *you*): as **agghiu**, *garlic*; **figghia**, *daughter*.

gn is like the *ni* in 'onion': as **ogni**, *every*.

qu, as in Italian, is always like *kw*: as **quattro**, *four*; **quinnici**, *fifteen*.

sc before *e* and *i* is nearly like *sh* in 'ship': as **sciallu**, *shawl*; **scemu**, *silly*.

In the **str** cluster, the **t** is not pronounced. The **s** and **r** are pronounced together as air is forced through the slightly open teeth and lips, forming a sound close to the **sh** in Eng. *shame*: as in **finestra**, *window*, **strata**, *street*.

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t, in the **nt** cluster, is pronounced as **d** (in General Sicilian); as **nendi**, *nothing*. In some parts of Sicily, it retains the **t** sound, as **nenti**.

The **tr** cluster is formed with the tip of the tongue touching the hard palate. The tongue is flat against the sides to permit the simultaneous pronunciation of the **r**: as **tri**, *three*.

In double consonants, both letters must be sounded, the first, at the end of the preceding, the second at the beginning of the following syllable:

annu, *year* **chiddu**, *that*
fattu, *fact* **pazzu**, *insane*

m, **n** and **r**, when preceded by an accented vowel and followed by another consonant, are prolonged: **sempri** (semm-pri), *always*; **tantu** (tann-tu), *so much*; **parti** (parr-ti) *part*..

Sicilian words are divided in such a way that, if possible, every syllable shall begin with a consonant.

men-zu, *half*; **no-ta**, *note*;
nor-du, *north*

In the clusters noted above, **st**, **tr**, **gn**, **gghi**, the consonants belong to the following syllable.

fe-sta **o-gni** **au-tru**
a-gghiu

I. Articles

The article agrees with its noun in gender and number.
(Alternates are noted in brackets [])

A. The Definite Article

Masculine

Singular **u**, [lu] Plural, **i**

u patri, *the father* **i** patri, *the fathers*
u figghiu, *the son* **i** figghi, *the sons*

Feminine

Singular **a**, [la] Plural **i**

a fimmina, *the woman* **i** fimmini, *the women*
a matri, *the mother* **i** matri, *the mothers*

Before a vowel, Masculine or Feminine

Singular **l'** Plural **li**

l'occhiu, *the eye* **li** occhi, *the eyes*
l'angilu, *the angel* **li** angili
l'ura, *the hour* **li** uri, *the hours*

When the definite article is preceded by one of the prepositions **di**, **a**, **in**, **cu**, **pir**, the article and preposition are generally contracted into one word, as shown in the following table

	u,lu	a,la	i,li, m,f,pl
di , <i>of, from</i>	dû [dô]	dâ	dî
a , <i>to, at</i>	ô	â	ê
in , <i>in, on</i>	ntô	ntâ	nî [ntê]
cu , <i>with</i>	ccû	ccâ	chî
pir , <i>for</i>	pû	pâ	pî

dû figghiu, *of the son*

ô patri, *to the father*

ccâ matri, *with the mother*

dî figghi, *of the sons*

ê patri, *to the fathers*

chî matri, *with the mothers*

In the following cases the definite article is used in Sicilian, though not in English:

(a) Before the possessive adjectives:

U nostru giardinu
I so frati

Our garden.
His brothers

However, when the possessive modifies a singular noun indicating personal relationship, the article is omitted, **me matri**, *my mother*.

(b) Before an abstract noun or one that denotes a whole class:

L'omu proponi.
I sciuri nâscinu dâ simenza.

Man proposes.
Flowers grow from seeds.

(c) Before a noun and adjective, used either in a specific or in a general sense.

L'annu passatu.	<i>Last year.</i>
U pòviru Luigi muriu.	<i>Poor Louis died.</i>
Li òmini boni	<i>Good men</i>

(d) Before a title followed by a proper name:

A Riggina Vittoria. *Queen Victoria*

The article is omitted after **in** in phrases that denote going to or living in a country; and often after **di** or **in** when the preposition with the name of a country is equivalent to an adjective of nationality:

Vaiu nâ Germania.	<i>I go to Germany</i>
A riggina d'Inghilterra	<i>The queen of England</i>
U vinu di Spagna	<i>Spanish wine</i>

The article is not used regularly with names of cities:
Roma, Torino.

B. The Indefinite Article

Masculine

(a) **Un** before a vowel or any consonant except **s** followed by a consonant (impure **s**) and **z**.

un aneddu, *a ring*

un patri, *a father*

(b) **'Nu** [**Unu**] before impure **s** and **z**

'nu specchju, *a mirror*

'nu ziu, *an uncle*

Feminine

Una becomes **'na** before a consonant and **un'** before a vowel.

'na matri, *a mother*

un'ura, *an hour*

The indefinite article is omitted in Sicilian before a predicate noun (a noun used with the verb *to be*), expressing occupation, condition, rank, or nationality, but not modified by an adjective.

È pueta, *he is a poet*. Sunu italiani, *they are Italians*.

È medicu, *he is a doctor*.

But it is used when the noun is modified by an adjective:

È **un** bon medicu, *he is a good doctor*.

II. Nouns

Sicilian nouns are not declined. Possession is noted by the preposition **di**:

U specchju **di** me patri *My father's mirror*

A. Gender

There are no neuter nouns in Sicilian; Latin neuters become masculine in Sicilian.

With but a few exceptions, nouns which denote male and female keep their natural gender:

u patri, *the father*

a matri, *the mother*

Of nouns denoting objects without sex, some are masculine, some feminine.

(a) Masculine — those ending in **-u** : **u** dinocchju, *the knee*; **u** figghju

Some exceptions: Except: **a** manu, *the hand*; **a** virtù, *the virtue*; **a** soru, *the sister*; **a** ficu, *the fig*; (but **u** ficu, *the fig tree*) among others.

(b) Feminine — those ending in **-a** : **a** figghia; **un'** ura, *an hour*

Some exceptions: some words of foreign origin: **u** Canadà, *Canada*; **u** colera, *cholera*; **u** telegramma, *the telegram*; **u** sofà, *the sofa*

(c) Those ending in **-zioni**, **-giuni** are feminine:

l'azioni, the action *a nazioni, the nation*
a prigiuni, the prison *a raggiuni, the reason*

(d) Those ending in **-i** can be either masculine or feminine:

u patri, the father *u frati, the brother*
a matri, the mother *a vutti, the barrel*

(e) Masculine names of trees ending in **-u** have a plural ending in **-a**

u piru, pear tree, pear *i pira, the pears*
u pumu, apple tree, apple *i puma, the apples*

But: *u ficu, the fig tree* *a ficu, the fig, i fichi, the figs*

B. Number

Masculine nouns, whatever their ending, form their plural in **-i**.

u poeta, the poet *i pueti, the poets*
u medicu, the doctor *i medici, the doctors*
u frati, the brother *i frati, the brothers*

(1) Masculines ending in **-ca** or **-cu** and **-ga** or **-gu** add an **h** before the plural ending, in order to retain the original hard sound of the consonant, **chi** (kee) and **-ghi** (ghee) respectively **-chi** and **-ghi** respectively.

u monarca, the monarch *i monarchi, the monarchs*
l'anticu, ancient *li antichi, the ancients*
u collega, the colleague *i colleghi, the colleagues*
u lagu, the lake *i laghi, the lakes*

Some exceptions:

(a) **-cu** > **-ci**
medicu, doctor, medici; amicu, friend, amici;
greco, Greek, greci; nimicu, enemy, nimici;
porcu, pig, porci

(b) **-logu** > **-logi**

Compound nouns in **-logu**, denoting persons engaged in the sciences, form their plural in **-logi**.

u fisio-logu, the physiologist; i fisio-logi the physiologists

(c) **-cu** > **-chi**

The following words form their plural in **-chi**:

<i>abbacu</i>	<i>abbachi</i>	<i>parocu</i>	<i>parochi</i>
<i>indicu</i>	<i>indichi</i>	<i>rammaricu</i>	<i>rammarichi</i>
<i>intonacu</i>	<i>intonachi</i>	<i>risicu</i>	<i>risichi</i>
<i>intrinsicu</i>	<i>intrinsichi</i>	<i>stomacu</i>	<i>stomachi</i>
<i>lastricu</i>	<i>lastrichi</i>	<i>strascicu</i>	<i>strascichi</i>
<i>manicu</i>	<i>manichi</i>	<i>tossicu</i>	<i>tossichi</i>
	<i>traficu</i>	<i>trafichi</i>	

(2) The following masculines, which end in **-u**, have an irregular feminine plural in **-a**:

cintinaru, hundred; cintinara, hundreds — paru, pair, para, pairs
migghiu, mile; migghia, miles — ovu, egg ova, eggs

migghiaru, *thousand* migghiaara, *thousand*

(3) The following masculines, which end in **-u** have this irregular feminine plural in **-a** besides the regular masculine plural in **-i**.

brazzu, <i>arm</i> (pl -a,-i)	dinocch <u>iu</u> , <i>knee</i> (pl -a,-i)
lign <u>u</u> , <i>wood</i> (pl -a,-i)	idit <u>u</u> , <i>finger</i> (pl -a,-i)
grid <u>u</u> , <i>shout</i> (pl -a,-i)	membr <u>u</u> , <i>member</i> (pl -a,-i)
frutt <u>u</u> , <i>fruit</i> (pl -a,-i)	labbr <u>u</u> , <i>lip</i> (pl -a,-i)
mur <u>u</u> , <i>wall</i> (pl -a,-i)	oss <u>u</u> , <i>bone</i> (pl -a,-i)

U me brazzu, <i>my arm</i>	I to brazza <i>or</i> brazzi, <i>your arm</i>
U labbru, <i>the lip</i>	I labbra <i>or</i> I labbri, <i>the lips</i>
Un ossu, <i>a bone</i>	Li ossa <i>or</i> Li ossi, <i>the bones</i>

Feminine nouns, whatever their ending, form their plural in **-i**.

A strata, <i>the street</i>	I strati, <i>the streets</i>
A matri, <i>the mother</i>	I matri, <i>the mothers</i>

(1) Feminines ending in **-ca** and **-ga** form their plural in **-chi** and **-ghi** respectively (the **h** is inserted merely to indicate that the **c** and **g** retain their hard sound - *kee*, *ghee*).

un' oca, <i>a goose</i>	tri ochi, <i>three geese</i>
a fuga, <i>the flight</i>	i fughi, <i>the flights</i>

(2) Feminines ending in unstressed **-cia** form their plural in **-ci**.

a guancia i guanci

Monosyllables and all nouns ending in **-i**, an accented vowel, or a consonant, are invariable and retain the same ending in the plural.

u re, <i>the king</i>	i re, <i>the kings</i>
u br \grave{a} ndisi, <i>the toast</i>	i br \grave{a} ndisi, <i>the toasts</i>
na speci, <i>a kind</i>	ottu speci, <i>eight kinds</i>
a virt \grave{u} , <i>virtue</i>	i virt \grave{u} , <i>the virtues</i>
na cit \grave{a} , <i>a city</i>	tri cit \grave{a} , <i>three cities</i>
l'onnibus, <i>the omnibus</i>	li onnibus, <i>the omnibusses</i>

III. Adjectives

Adjectives agree with their nouns in gender and number.

U gattu è pulitu	<i>The cat is neat</i>
Stanzi puliti	<i>Neat rooms</i>
A picciridda è bedda	<i>The little girl is pretty</i>

Numeral and pronominal adjectives, **beddu**, **bravu**, **bonu**, and the commonest adjectives of size and quantity, precede their nouns. Adjectives of nationality, shape, land and material follow.

Dui cani	<i>Two dogs</i>
Troppu pani	<i>Too much bread</i>
A bona matri	<i>The good mother</i>
I granni cità	<i>Great cities</i>
Poviru omu!	<i>Poor man!</i>
'Na brutta minsogna	<i>An ugly lie</i>
È un omu gentilissimu	<i>He is a kind man</i>
Un libbru francisi	<i>A French book</i>
Sta palla rotunna	<i>This round ball</i>

A. Gender and Number

Adjectives which end in **-u** are masculine and form their feminine in **-a**. Adjectives which end in **-i** are invariable and have the same ending in the masculine and feminine.

bonu libbru, <i>good book</i>	bona scarpa, <i>good shoe</i>
picciottu filici, <i>happy boy</i>	picciotta filici, <i>happy girl</i>

Adjectives form their plural in the same way as nouns:

Masc. **-u -i** — Fem. **-a -i** — Masc. Fem. **-i -i**

tri figghi boni , <i>three good sons</i>	tri casi boni , <i>four good houses</i>
dui patri filici , <i>two happy fathers</i>	piccioti beddi , <i>beautiful girls</i>

(a) **Qualchi** [**quarchi**], *some*, is used only in the singular, even when the meaning is plural: as **qualchi vota**, *sometimes*

(b) Sicilian has two adjectives for beautiful: **beddu**, indicates physical beauty, while **bellu** denotes quality, fineness. When it precedes a noun, **bellu** has forms similar to those of the definite article.

'na bedda picciotta	<i>a beautiful girl</i>
un bell' omu	<i>a fine man</i>

(c) When preceding a noun, which begins with s or z + consonant (impure s) **bellu**, **Santu**, **granni**, **bonu** undergo no change and have normal endings in the plural—**belli**, **Santi**, **granni**, **boni**.

Un bellu stivali	<i>A fine boot</i>
Santu Stefanu	<i>Saint Stephen</i>

(d) When preceding a noun, which begins with a consonant (except impure s or z), **bellu** [**beddu**], *fine*, **Santu**, *Saint*, **granni** [**ranni**] *big, great*, and **bonu**, *good*, are shortened to **bel** [**beddu**], **San**, **gran**, **bon** in the singular and have normal endings in the plural, **belli** [**beddi**], **Santi**, **granni**, **boni**.

Un bel quattru	<i>A fine picture</i>
San Giuseppi	<i>Saint Joseph</i>
Sti belli quatri	<i>These fine picture</i>

(e) Before a vowel: **bell'**, **Sant'**, **grann' bon'**; pl. **belli**, **Santi**, **granni**, **boni**.

Un bon' amicu	<i>A good friend</i>
Un bell' affari	<i>A fine business</i>
Sant' Antoniu	<i>Saint Anthony</i>
I belli omini	<i>The fine men</i>

(f) When used after a noun or in the predicate, these adjectives undergo no change **bellu** - **belli**; **Santu** - **Santi**;
granni - **granni**; **bonu** - **boni**.

I seggi sunnu belli	<i>The chairs are beautiful</i>
È santu	<i>He is a saint</i>
U picciriddu è granni	<i>The little boy is big</i>
U riloggiu è bonu	<i>The watch is good</i>
U palazzu è bellu	<i>The palace is fine</i>

(g) Any adjective of either gender or either number may be used as a noun.

i boni, *the good*. **a bella**, *the beautiful woman*

B. Comparison

(a) All Sicilian adjectives form

— their comparative by prefixing **chiù**, *more*, to the adjective and

— their superlative, by prefixing the definite article (**u**, **a**) to the comparative.

beddu, *beautiful* **chiù** beddu, *more beautiful*;
u chiù beddu, *the most beautiful*

longu, *long* **chiù** longu, *longer*
u chiù longu, *the longest*

(b) When the superlative immediately follows the noun, the definite article is omitted.

a **vía chiù** curta, *the shortest way*

(c) Two adjectives, **megghiu** and **peggiu**, have an irregular comparison, in addition to the regular one.

chiù bonu (a), or **megghiu**, *better*
u (a) chiù bonu (a), or **u (a) megghiu**, *the best*
chiù malu (a), or **peggiu**, *worse*
u (a)chiù malu (a), or **u (a) peggiu**, *the worst*

A casa di Iachinu è **chiù** bona (**megghiu**) dâ mè.
Jack's house is better than mine.

A casa di Iachinu è **chiù** mala (**peggiu**) dâ mè.
Jack's house is worse than mine

A casa di Iachinu è a **chiù** bona (a **megghiu**)

Jack's house is the best.

A casa di Iachinu è a **chiù** mala (a **peggiu**)

Jack's house is the worst.

(d) *Larger* and *smaller* are generally **chiù** granni and **chiù** nicu; **maggiuri** and **minuri** usually signify *older* and *younger*.

A casa di Ninu è a **chiù** granni. *Nino's house is the largest.*

Paulu è u frati **chiù** nicu. *Paul is the smallest brother.*

Ninu è u frati **minuri**. *Nino is the youngest brother.*

(e) The adverb *less* is expressed by **menu**; *least* by **u** (a) **menu**
—Sta stanza è a **menu** bella.
This room is the least pretty.

(f) *As... as is*

tantu... quantu — Paulu unn è **tantu** intelligenti **quantu** bonu.
Paul is not as intelligent as he is good.

or **tantu... comu** — Paulu è **tantu** intelligenti **comu** Ninu.
Paul is as intelligent as Nino.

(g) *Than is chi* — L'albergu è **chiù** granni **chi** bellu.
The hotel is bigger than it is beautiful.

But before a noun, a pronoun, or a numeral, *than* is rendered by the preposition **di**.

Filippu è pegghiu **di** mia. *Philip is worse than I.*

Iddi sunnu **chiù** ricchi **du** re. *They are richer than the king.*

Menu **di** cinqu. *Less than five.*

(h) *The more... the more is chiù... chiù.*

Chiù studiu, **chiù** imparu. *The more I study, the more I learn.*

The less... the less is menu... menu.

Menu studiu, **menu** imparu. *The less I study, the less I learn.*

(i) *More and less after a number are di chiù, di menu.*

Trenta iorna **di menu**. *Thirty days less.*

(j) *In speaking of time, longer after a negative is chiù.*

Unn u videmu **chiù**. *We no longer see him.*

IV. Augmentatives and Diminutives; Numerals

Augmentative and Diminutive Endings

Sicilian often uses a suffix to express size or quality. The suffix may be added to a noun, an adjective or an adverb. Unlike Italian, the dialect has a limited number of such endings.

Augmentatives

(a) The commonest ending is **-issimu** (fem.-**issima**), *very*, which in general is added only to adjectives and adverbs.

<i>largu, wide</i>	<i>larghissimu, very wide</i>
<i>beni, well</i>	<i>benissimu, very well</i>
<i>granni, big</i>	<i>grannissimu, very big</i>

Adverbs in **-menti** add the **-issima** before the **-menti**.

bellissimamenti *very beautifully*

(b) **Autru chi** precedes the adjective to indicate bigness

È autru chi granni. *He is more than big.*

(c) The **-azzu** (-a) suffix denotes bigness, but usually in a pejorative sense.

Havi na buccazza. *She has a big mouth.*
U chiamanu manazza. *They call him Big Hands [because he has large hands].*

(d) **-uni** also denotes bigness, often in a pejorative sense.

nasuni	<i>bignose</i>
latruni	<i>terrible thief</i>
scaluni	<i>stair</i>
casciuni	<i>drawer (of a chest)</i>

Diminutives

Sicilians love diminutives, which they use to express not only size but feeling and affection. Unlike Italian, which has some fourteen diminutive suffixes, Sicilian has basically only four - **ceddu** (-a), **-iddu**, **-uzzu** (-a) and **-inu**:

(a) **-uzzu** denotes affection. It is an exclusive Sicilian term of endearment extended not only to people but to things as well.

u panuzzu - *the bread, i.e. the wonderful, sweet, lovely bread*
Pippinuzzu - *little Pippinu, our dear Pippinu*

It has been so widely used that it has worked its way into proper names as in **Maruzzu**, a diminutive of *Maria*, which, however, does not indicate smallness.

(b) **-ceddu** (-a) denotes smallness, but also "somewhat, something of"

<i>a casicedda</i>	<i>the small house</i>
<i>é bruttedda</i>	<i>she's somewhat ugly [not really pretty].</i>
<i>é latriceddu</i>	<i>he's something of a thief.</i>

(c) **-iddu**. The best known example of this suffix is found in **Turiddu**, the diminutive of *Salvaturi* - **Salvaturiddu**

(d)- **inu** (-a) **buccuncinu**, *a mouthful*; by extension, *the sweet-ricotta-filled pastry*.

(e) **nicu nicu**, *very small*. The repetition of the adjective **nicu** accentuates the smallness.

U gattu é **nicu nicu**. *The cat is very small.*

Numerals

The Cardinals

1 unu	11 unni	30 trenta
2 dui	12 duidici	40 quaranta
3 tri	13 tridici	50 cinquanta
4 quattru	14 quattordici	60 sissanta
5 cincu	15 quinni	70 sittanta
6 sei	16 sidici	80 ottanta
7 setti	17 diciseti	90 novanta
8 ottu	18 diciottu	100 centu
9 novi	19 dicinovi	200 ducentu
10 deci	20 vinti	300 tricentu

1,000 **milli** — 2,000 **dumila** — 1,000,000 **un miliuni**

Unu has a feminine, **una**; when used as an adjective, it has the same forms as the indefinite article.

una cosa, *one thing*

The plural of **milli** is **mila**, as in **dumila**.

dumila casi, *two thousand houses*

1. Unlike English,
no conjunction is used between the different parts of a number
— **ducentu quaranta**, *two hundred and forty*;
nor is an indefinite article used before **centu** and **milli**
— **centu libri**, *a hundred books*, **milli scuti**, *a thousand dollars*

2. *Both, all three, etc.* are **tutti i dui, tutti i tri**, etc.

3. *What time is it?* is **chi ura è ?** or **chi ura sunnu ?** *It is six, etc.*, is **sunnu i sei**, etc. *ura* being understood.

Sunnu i dui e menzu. *It's half past two.*
Sunnu i tri e deci. *It's ten minutes past three.*
Ci mancànu vinti minuti pili quattru *It's twenty minute to four.*
Sunnu i cinqu men' un quartu. *It's a quarter to five.*

The Ordinals

1st primu	8th ottavu
2d secunnu	9th nonu
3d terzu	10th decimu
4th quartu	20th vintesimu
5th quintu	30th trentesimu
6th sestu	100th centesimu
7th settimu	1,000th millesimu

All ordinals form their feminines and plurals like other adjectives which end in -u

a terza figghia si chiama Carla, *the third daughter is called Carla*
chista è a quinta lezzioni, *this is the fifth lesson*

(a) Ordinal numerals are used after the names of rulers, without the article.

Carlu Secunnu	<i>Charles the Second</i>
Piu Nonu	<i>Pius IX</i>

(b) For the day of the month, except the first, a cardinal number is used.

cinqu d'aprili.	<i>The fifth of April.</i>
u primu di maggiu	<i>The first of May</i>

(c) A couple or a pair is **un paru**; the plural is **para**

un paru di scarpi *a pair of shoes.*

(d) The -ina suffix indicates *about, some*, as in **una decina, una vintina, una trentina**, etc. but **una duzzina** is *a dozen*.

una cinquantina di libbri	<i>some fifty books</i>
una duzzina di libbri	<i>a dozen books</i>

(e) *Once, twice, etc.* are **una vota, dui voti**, etc

Vinni â casa **tri voti** *He came to the house three times*

(f) *Several times* is **paricchi voti**

U visti **paricchi voti** *I saw it several times.*

V. Pronouns

Personal Pronouns

There are two types of personal pronouns:
disjunctive and **conjunctive**

A. Disjunctive Pronouns

These pronouns do not receive the action of the verb;
as it were, they are dis-joined from it.

There are two types of disjunctives:

1. Subject Pronouns, used as the subject of a verb and
2. Object Pronouns, used only after prepositions.

1. Subject Pronouns

These are used as the subject of a verb.

Singular

Plural

iu parru, *I speak*
tu parri, *you speak*
iddu parra, *he (it) speaks*
idda parra, *she (it) speaks*

nuautri [nui] parramu, *we speak*
vuautri [vui] parrati, *you speak*
iddi, m, parranu, *they speak*
iddi, f, parranu, *they speak*

Nui and **vui** are used only in some parts of Sicily. The familiar **tu** form is used in addressing children, relatives, close friends, servants and persons of a lower social rank. The subject pronouns are generally omitted, but are always used for clearness.

Parramu chiaru.
Iu u fazzu, non iddu.

We speak clearly.
I do it, not he.

2. Object Pronouns

These are used as the object of a preposition. **pir iddu**, *for him*, a
idda, *to her*

mia , me	nuautri , us
tia , you	vuatri , you
iddu , he, it	iddi , they, m.
idda , she, it	iddi , they, f.

Filippu veni cu **mia**.
U fa pir **nuautri**.
Tu dugu a **tia**.

Philip comes with me.
He does it for us.
I give it to you.

B. Conjunctive Pronouns

These forms are so called because they stand next to, and precede the verb (**con-**, *with*); as it were, they are joined-with the verb (**-junct-**), which they sometimes follow, but often precede. They serve as the direct object of a verb (d.o.), and as indirect object without a preposition (i.o.); they are as follows:

<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
(d.o.)	(i.o.)	(d.o.)	(i.o.)
mi , me, to me		ni , us, to us	
ti , you, to you		vi , you, to you	
u , him, ci , to him		i , them, ci , to them (m)	
a , her, ci , to her		i , them, ci , to them (f)	

Singular

(d.o.) Mi talia.	<i>He looks at me.</i>
(i.o.) Maria mi duna u libbru.	<i>Mary gives me the book.</i>
(d.o.) Ti canusci.	<i>He knows you.</i>
(i.o.) Filippu ti duna u libbru.	<i>Philip gives you the book.</i>
(d.o.) U(a) vidu ddocu.	<i>I see him (her) there.</i>
(i.o.) Ci parru chiaru.	<i>I speak to him (her) clearly.</i>

Plural

(d.o.) Me matri ni voli beni.	<i>My mother loves us.</i>
(i.o.) Iddu ni parra cu sincerità.	<i>He speaks to us sincerely.</i>
(d.o.) Carlu vi talia.	<i>Charles looks at you.</i>
(i.o.) Anna vi coci a pasta.	<i>Anna cooks pasta for you.</i>
(d.o.) I amu comu me figghi.	<i>I love them as my sons.</i>
(i.o.) Ci vuliti dari i puma?	<i>Will you give them the apples?</i>

1. Reflexive pronouns are conjunctive:

mi , myself	ni , ourselves
ti , yourself	vi , yourselves
si , himself, herself	si , themselves (m.,f.)
Mi vestu. <i>I dress myself.</i>	Ni vistimu. <i>We dress ourselves.</i>
Ti vesti. <i>You dress yourself</i>	Vi vistiti. <i>You dress yourselves.</i>
Si vesti. <i>He, she dresses himself, herself</i>	Si vestinu. <i>They dress themselves</i>

2. Another conjunctive pronoun is **ni**, *of it, of them, any, some; any, some of them*. It serves the same purpose as the French **en** and the Italian **ne**.

Nun ni avemu.	<i>We don't have any.</i>
Ni vuliti?	<i>Do you want any?</i>

3. Conjunctive pronouns immediately precede the verb:

Mi viditi.	<i>You see me.</i>
Unn u capisciu.	<i>I don't understand him.</i>

But when the verb is (a) an infinitive (inf), (b) a positive imperative (pos.imp), or (c) a present participle (pres. part.), the pronoun follows the verb and is written as one word with it.

(inf)	(a) pi vidirlu , <i>to see him</i> di avirlu vistu, <i>to have seen him</i>
(pos.imp)	(b) viditili , <i>see them</i> dammilu, <i>give it to me</i>
(pres. part)	(c) avennuni vistu, <i>having seen us</i> vidennuni, <i>seeing us</i>

4. The conjunctive pronouns **mi, ti, ci, ni, vi** precede **lu, la** and **li** and unite with them.

Milu dici. <i>He tells it to me.</i>
Tila cunta (sta storia). <i>He tells it to you (this tale).</i>
Cili duna. <i>He gives them to them.</i>
Nili vinni. <i>He sells them to us.</i>
Vili mannu. <i>I send them to you.</i>

VI. Demonstrative, Interrogative, Relative, Possessive, and Indefinite Adjectives & Pronouns

A. Demonstrative Adjectives and Pronouns

1. The demonstrative adjectives and pronouns are used in the same manner as they are in Italian. They agree in number and gender with the noun they modify.

(a) Near the speaker

Adjectives

stu, sta, sti

Stu libbru, *this book*
Sta fimmina, *this woman*
Sti puma, *these apples*

Pronouns

chistu, chista, chisti

chistu, *this one*
chista, *this one*
chisti, *these*

(b) Near the person addressed

Su, sa, si

Su libbru, *that book*
Sa fimmina, *that woman*
Si puma, *those apples*

chissu, chissa, chissi

chissu, *that one*
chissa, *that one*
chissi, *those*

(c) Away from the speaker or the person addressed

Du, da, di

du libbru, *that book (over there)*
da fimmina, *that woman*
di puma, *those apples*

chiddu, chidda, chiddi

chiddu, *that one*
chidda, *that one*
chiddi, *those*

B. Interrogatives, Possessives

1. *He who* and the interrogative *who, whom*, is **cu**.

Cu travagghia mangia beni. *He who works eats well.*
Cu veni stasira? *Who is coming tonight?*
 A **cu** vidu? *Whom do I see?*

2. *What ?* used substantively is **chi**. *What ?* used adjectively is **chi** or **quali**. *Which?* is **quali**. *How much? How many* is **quantu**. All are invariable.

Chi vidi? *What do you see?*
Chi or **quali** libbru accattasti? *What books did you buy?*
Quantu soldi guadagnasti? *How much money did you earn?*
Quantu voti ti l'hau dittu? *How many times have I told you?*

3. The interrogative *whose* is **di cu**.

Di cu è stu bigghiettu? *Whose card is this?*

4. In exclamations *what a* is rendered by **chi** without any article.

Chi bellu paisi! *What a beautiful country!*

C. Relative Pronouns

The principal relative pronouns are **chi**, **cui**, **u quali**: they are applied to both persons and things, and mean *who*, *whom*, *which*, or *that*. **U quali** is inflected (**a quali**, **i quali**). **Chi** and **cui** are invariable: in general **chi** is used only as subject and direct object, **cui** only after prepositions or as indirect object.

A lingua chi si parra ca.	<i>The language spoken here.</i>
L'omu di cui si tratta.	<i>The man of whom we are speaking.</i>
I fimmuni a cui or ai quali parru.	<i>The women to whom I speak.</i>
U scrittu di cui parru.	<i>The writing of which I speak.</i>

1. As subject or direct object **chi** is preferred to **u quali**, unless clearness requires the latter.

A figghia chi studia.	<i>The daughter who is studying.</i>
A figghia d'ù Francisi, a quali studia.	<i>The Frenchman's daughter, who is studying.</i>

1a. **ca** is widely used in some parts of the island, especially in southeastern Sicily.

A cosa ca mi surprenni	What surprises me
Sacciu ca Pippinu è pòviru	I know that Joey is poor
Aspettu ca nesci	I'm waiting for him to come out
Certu ca hai fami	Of course you are hungry
Haju vistu cosi ca nun mi parunu veri	I have seen things that don't seem real to me

2. The relative pronoun *whose* is **u cui** or **dilu quali**.

Una signura, u cui nnomu è Lucia.	<i>A lady whose name is Lucy.</i>
Un omu, i cui figghi canusciu.	<i>A man whose daughters I know.</i>
I chiesi dilu quali si vidinu i cupuli.	<i>The churches whose domes we see.</i>

3. *What*, meaning *that which*, is **zaccu** (pronounced *tsakku*) [**soccu**, **zoccu**]; it is invariable. The Italian equivalent is **ciò che**, **quello che**, or **quel che**. Like **ciò che**, it is derived from the Latin (*ec*) *ce hoc*.

Unnu sacciu zaccu dici.	<i>I don't know what he is saying.</i>
Capisci zaccu voli diri?	<i>Do you understand what he is trying to say?</i>
Sulu iddu u sapi zaccu fa.	<i>Only he knows what he is doing.</i>

4. The relative pronoun cannot be omitted in Sicilian.

I casi chi accattai.	<i>The houses I bought.</i>
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(a) *Such.... as* is **quali (tali)...** **tali**

Quali [tali] u patri, tali u figghiu.	<i>Like father like son.</i>
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(b) *He who, him who* is **cu**

Cu havi a bona saluti è riccu.	<i>He who has good health is rich.</i>
Cu travagghia è cuntenti.	<i>He who works is satisfied.</i>
Amamu cu ni ama.	<i>We love him who loves us.</i>

D. Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns

	Singular M.F.		Plural M.F.	
	Adj.	Pron.	Adj.	Pron.
<i>my, mine:</i>	me	u (a) mè	me	i mè
<i>thy, thine:</i>	to	u (a) tò	to	i tò
<i>his, her(s):</i>	so	u (a) sò	so	i sò
<i>our, ours:</i>	nostru	a nostra	nostri	i nostri
<i>your, yours:</i>	vostru	a vostra	vostri	i vostri
<i>their, theirs:</i>	so	u (a) sò	so	i sò

Me, to, so are invariable; **nostru** and **vostru** agree with the noun in number and gender.

	Adj.	Pron.
	U me libbru, <i>My book.</i>	U sò , <i>his (book).</i>
	So figghia, <i>His daughter</i>	A sò , <i>his (daughter)</i>
	I So figghi, <i>His, their daughters</i>	I sò , <i>theirs (daughters)</i>

The article is omitted before the possessive:

(a) When a numeral, an adjective of quantity, or a demonstrative or interrogative adjective precedes it.

Dui cani s ò.	<i>Two of his dogs.</i>
But I dui cani s ò.	<i>His two dogs.</i>
Tanti amici mè.	<i>So many of my friends.</i>
Chistu to difettu.	<i>This fault of yours.</i>

(b) When the possessive forms part of a title.

Vostra Maistà. *Your Majesty*

(c) When the possessive modifies a noun used in the vocative:
as **amicu mè!**, *my friend!*

E. Indefinite Pronouns

(a) *One, people, we, you, they*, used in an indefinite sense, are rendered in Sicilian by the reflexive construction with **si**.

Si mangia beni in Sicilia. *One eats well in Sicily.*
Si fa accussì. *You do it this way.*

(b) *All* as a substantive is **tuttu** (**tutti**, etc.)

Tutti stavanu silenziusi. *All were silent.*

The adjective *all, the whole* is **tuttu** followed by the definite article.

Tutta a terra. *The whole earth.*
Tuttu u iornu. *All day.*
Tutti i romani sunnu beddi. *All Roman women are beautiful.*

(c) *Any*, when it really adds nothing to the sense, is omitted:

Unn havi libbri. *He doesn't have (any) books.*
Vuliti vinu? *Do you want any wine?*

Any used substantively in the sense of *any of it, any of them* is **ni**.

Unn **ni** haiu. *I haven't any.*
Unn **ni** havi chiù. *He doesn't have any more.*
Ni aviti? *Do you have any?*

Any used adjectively and meaning *any whatsoever* is **qualunqui**.

U fa megghiu di **qualunqui** *He does it better than any other*
altra pirsuna. *person.*

(d) *Some*, when it adds nothing to the sense, is omitted.

Vuliti burru? *Will you have some butter?*

Some, meaning *some of it, some of them* is **ni**:

Ni havi. *He has some.*

Otherwise *some* is **alcunu** or **qualchi**. **Qualchi** is always singular (even when the meaning is plural), and is never used substantively.

Alcuni pirsuni or **qualchi** *Some persons.*
pirsuna.

Alcuni u fannu. *Some do it.*

(e) *Some... others (some)* is: **cù...cù**
Tutti muremu; **cù** giuvani **cù** *We all die; some young, others*
vecchi *old.*

The one... the other is: **autri... autri**
Autri cadinu, **autri** scappanu *Some fall, others flee.*

One... another is: **l'unu... l'altu**
Voi sasizza or du'ova? *Do you want sausages or two*
 eggs?

L'unu e l'altu. *Both (one and the other).*

(f) Other indefinite pronouns and adjectives:

anybody, **qualcunu**, **qualchidunu**, pronouns.

anything, **qualchicosa**, pron.

anything else, **altu**, pron.

both, **tutti dui**, **l'unu e l'altu**, **entrammi**, pron. or adj.

certain, **certu**, adj.

each, every, **ogni**, **ciascunu**, adj.; **ognunu**, pron.

either, **l'unu o l'altu**, pron. or adj.

everybody, **ognunu**, **ciascunu**, **tutti**, pron.

everything, **tuttu**, pron.

few, a few, **pochi**, **qualchi**, **alcuni**, pron. or adj.

however much, **pir quantu**, adj.

little, **pocu**, pron. or adj.

less, **menu**, pron. or adj.

many, **numerusi**, **paricchi**, pron. or adj.

more, **chiù**, pron. or adj.

neither, **nè l'unu nè l'altu**, pron. or adj.

nobody, **nessunu**, **nuddu**, pron.

no more, **non... chiù**, pron.

nothing, **nenti**, **nulla**, pron.

nothing else, **nent'altu**, pron.

others, **autri**, pron.

several, **paricchi**, pron. or adj.

somebody, **qualcunu**, pron.

something, **qualchicosa**, pron.

something else, **altu**, pron.

such, **tali**, adj.

such a, **un tali**, adj.

whatever, **qualunqui** (invariable) adj.

1. The verb used with **nessunu, alunu, nenti, nulla** (meaning *no, nobody, nothing*) must be preceded by **unn (non), not**, unless this pronoun or adjective precedes the verb.

Unn haiu vistu **nessunu**. *I have seen nobody.*
Nessun populu u pussedi. *No people possesses it.*

2. *Nothing*, followed by an adjective, is **neni di**.

Unn aviti **neni di** bonu. *You have nothing good.*

3. **Ciascunu, ognunu, nessunu, alunu**, when used adjectively, are inflected like **unu**.

F. Conjunctions and Prepositions

Conjunctions

The principal conjunctions are:

<i>after, doppu chi</i>	<i>however, tuttavìa</i>
<i>also, anchi, puru</i>	<i>if, si (occasionally quannu)</i>
<i>although, benchi, sebbeni</i>	<i>in case, casu</i>
<i>and, e</i>	<i>in order that, affinchè</i>
<i>as, comu</i>	<i>much less, tantu menu</i>
<i>as(since), siccomu</i>	<i>neither... nor, nè... nè</i>
<i>as well as, comu anchi</i>	<i>nevertheless, nundimenu</i>
<i>because, pirchi</i>	<i>nor, nè</i>
<i>before, prima chi</i>	<i>nor... either, neppuru</i>
<i>but, ma</i>	<i>nor even, neanche</i>
<i>even if, anchi si</i>	<i>or, o, opuru</i>
<i>for, pirchi</i>	<i>or else, opuru, altrimenti</i>

granting that, datu chi
rather, anzi
since (temporal), dachi
since (causal), siccomu
so, dunca
so that (result), di modu chi
so that (in order that), pirchi
than, that, chi
that, (in order that), pirchi
then, dunca

provided that, purchi
therefore, dunca, però, perciò
too, puru, anchi
unless, a menu chi, eccettu chi
until, finchi
when, quannu
whence, di unni
where, unni
whether, si
while, mentri

Prepositions

The principal prepositions are:

<i>about (approximately), circa</i>	<i>besides (in addition to), oltri</i>
<i>about (around), intornu a</i>	<i>between, fra</i>
<i>above, supra</i>	<i>beyond, oltri</i>
<i>according to, secunnu</i>	<i>by, accantu a</i>
<i>after, doppu</i>	<i>by means of, pir menzu di</i>
<i>against, contra</i>	<i>during, davanti</i>
<i>along, accantu</i>	<i>except, eccettu, tranni</i>
<i>among, fra</i>	<i>from, da</i>
<i>around, intornu a</i>	<i>in, in</i>
<i>as far as, sinu a</i>	<i>in front of, davanti a</i>
<i>as for, giacchi</i>	<i>inside of, dintra di</i>
<i>as to, quantu a</i>	<i>instead of, invece di</i>
<i>at, a</i>	<i>in the midst of, nu menzu di</i>
<i>because of, pir motivu di</i>	<i>into, in, dintra</i>
<i>before (time), prima di</i>	<i>near, vicinu a</i>
<i>before (place), davanti a</i>	<i>of, di</i>
<i>behind, darrerri</i>	<i>on, su, supra</i>
<i>below, sutta</i>	<i>on this side, di stu latu</i>

<i>beside (place), accanto a</i>	<i>opposite, dirrimpettu</i>
<i>out of, fora di</i>	<i>through, pir [pi', ppi']</i>
<i>outside of, fora di</i>	<i>under, sutta</i>
<i>over, supra</i>	<i>upon, supra</i>
<i>round and round, intornu,</i>	<i>up to, sinu</i>
<i>intornu a</i>	<i>with, cu [ccu]</i>
<i>since, di quannu</i>	<i>within, fra, tra</i>
<i>to, a</i>	<i>without, senza</i>
<i>toward, versu</i>	<i>without (outside of) fora di</i>

The use of prepositions in Sicilian is not as tortuous as in Italian, but note the following :

1. *To* is omitted before an infinitive following an auxiliary verb:

Devi capiri.	<i>He ought <u>to</u> understand.</i>
Putemu viniri.	<i>We shall be able <u>to</u> come.</i>
Nun sapi zaccu fari.	<i>He doesn't know what <u>to</u> do.</i>

2. Only an infinitive may be used as the object of a preposition and not the present participle as in English.

Cuntò a munita prima di pagari.	<i>He counted his money before <u>paying</u>.</i>
Si fici capiri senza parrari.	<i>He made himself understood without <u>speaking</u>.</i>

3. *A* is often used before a noun that describes another noun, when in English these two nouns form a compound word.

Una macchina a vapuri.	<i>A steam-engine.</i>
Una tavula a tri pedi.	<i>A three-legged table.</i>

4. In some idiomatic phrases, *di* is used in Sicilian when another preposition is used in English.

Di iornu e di notti.	<i>By day and by night.</i>
È cuntenti di travagghiari.	<i>He is satisfied with work.</i>
<u>But</u> : Pensu di no.	<i>I think not.</i>

5. *Da* has varied meanings:

(a) Characteristic of:

A sala da pranzu.	<i>The dining room.</i>
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(b) From:

Arrivò oggi da Parigi.	<i>He arrived from Paris today.</i>
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(c) By; To, indicating duty or necessity:

Fu fattu da Ninu.	<i>It was done by Nino.</i>
Havi qualchicosa da fari.	<i>He has something to do</i>

(d) *Da* corresponds to English *on*, *at*, or *to* before the word *side*, and *as far as one is concerned*:

Da chista parti.	<i>On this side.</i>
Da so parti, Gianni...	<i>As far as he's concerned, John...</i>

(e) As a:

Prumettu da omu d'onuri.	<i>I promise as a man of honor.</i>
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VII. Adverbs

Adverbs do not agree with nouns, adjectives, or verbs.
They are invariable.

There are two types of adverbs: **conjunctive** and **disjunctive**

Conjunctive, so called because they stand next to, and precede, the verb (**con** - *with*)

1. **ci** (there)

(a) indicating place:

Va a Roma? No, nun **ci** va. *Is he going to Rome? No, he isn't going.*

(b) used emphatically at the beginning of a phrase:

C'era una vota. *Once upon a time.*

2. **ni** (of it, etc) An unemphatic adverbial pronoun referring to a prepositional phrase introduced by **di**.

Ha parratu di so patri? *Has he spoken of his father?*
Sì, **ni** havi parratu. *Yes, he has spoken of him.*

Disjunctive, so called because they do not receive the action of the verb; as it were, they are dis-joined from it. There are four groups of disjunctives: of place; of time; of quantity; and of manners.

1. Adverbs of Place

Cà [cca], *here*, near the speaker. **Docu** [ddocu], *there*, near the person addressed. **Dà** [dda] *over there*, away from both. **Vicinu**, *nearby, close*. **Luntanu**, *distant, far*.

Unna è? È **cca**.
Chi fai **ddocu**?
U vidu **dda**.
A so casa è **vicinu**.
A cità è **luntanu**.

Where is it? It's here.
What are you doing there?
I see him over there.
His house is nearby.

2. Adverbs of Time

non... mai, *never*
ora, *now*
ora ora, *right away*
spissu, *often*
sempri, *always*
prestu, *soon*
oggi, *today*
stamatina, *this morning*
fa, *ago*

stasira, *this evening*
stanotti, *last night*
avantaieri, *day before yesterday*
aieri, *yesterday*
dumani, *tomorrow*
aierisira, *last night*
doppu dumani, *day after tomorrow*

Non ti ha **mai** parratu.
Arrivarinu **ora ora**.
Tri anni **fa**.
Arrivò **aierisira**.
Ci vaiu **doppu dumani**.
Idd è **sempri** mansu.

He has never spoken to you.
They have just arrived.
Three years ago.
He arrived last night.
I'll go the day after tomorrow.
He is always well-behaved.

3. Adverbs of Quantity

assai, *a lot, much, enough* **tantu**, *much, so much*
troppu, *too much, too* **pocu**, *little, small, few*
tuttu, *all, whole, entire*

Ti voli ben' **assai**. *He is very fond of you.*
Sugnu **troppu** stancu. *I am too tired.*

4. Adverbs of Manner

(a) Adverbs of manner are formed by adding the suffix **-menti** to the feminine form of the adjective.

chiaru, *clear* **chiaramenti**, *clearly*
francu, *frank* **francamenti**, *frankly*

However, Sicilians prefer using the adjective as an adverb.

Unn pozzu *vidiri* troppu **bonu**. *I can't see too well.*
Iddu parra **chiaru**. *He speaks clearly.*

(b) So meaning *it* is translated as **u**

U fazzu. *I do so.*
U cridi. *He thinks so.*
U *d*cinu *They say so.*

Comparison

Adverbs are compared like adjectives.

1. Regular:

granni, *large*; **chiù granni**, *larger*;
u chiù granni, *the largest*

nicu, *small*; **chiù nicu**, *smaller*
u chiù nicu, *the smallest*

2. Irregular:

bonu, *well*; **megghiu**, *better*; **u megghiu**, *the best*
malu, *bad*; **peggiu**, *worse*; **u peggiu**, *the worst*

Sì, no, còmu

Yes is **sì**. No is **no**. *What?* meaning *what do you say?* is **còmu** ?
Chi is often used to introduce questions.

Pirchì unn rispunni? **Còmu?** **Chi** s'ì surdu?
Why don't you answer? What? Are you deaf?

VIII. The Verb System

Like Italian, Sicilian has three conjugations: I - *ari*; II - *iriri*; III - *iri*. But it has fewer tenses than Italian. These are: present indicative, imperfect, preterite, present perfect, pluperfect, imperfect subjunctive, and past perfect subjunctive. It has present and past participles, but no passive, as there is in Italian. There is no present or present perfect subjunctive; the present subjunctive is replaced by the present indicative. Note that it has no future or conditional. The vivid present (I do it tomorrow *for* I shall do it tomorrow) is used to indicate future, while the imperfect subjunctive takes the place of the conditional.

In the closing years of this century, however, because of the widespread use of Italian, many Sicilians have adopted the Italian future and conditional as well as the present subjunctive. Because, as yet, the dialect has no set rules governing usage, one is free to use the adopted tenses or to retain the older, sparser format as do most of those born in the early part of the twentieth century. However, usage will prevail, and, doubtless, all the borrowed Italian forms will become part of Sicilian, causing it to sound like Italian, spoken with a Sicilian accent. And it is then that Sicilian, as an independent language, will have disappeared.

Auxiliary Verb

Unlike Italian, which has two auxiliary verb, *avere* and *essere*, Sicilian has only one, *aviri*. *Essiri* is like any other verb of the second conjugation and is inflected accordingly. The regular endings in the verbs that follow are preceded by a hyphen (-) after the stem.

Aviri, to have

<u>Infinitive</u>		<u>Present participle</u>		<u>Past participle</u>
av-iri		av-ennu		av-utu
<u>Present Indicative</u> <i>I have, etc.</i>		<u>Imperfect</u> <i>I used to, etc.</i>		<u>Preterite</u> <i>I had, etc.</i>
haiu avemu		av-eva av-evamu		appi appimu
havi aviti		av-evi av-evu [-vavu]		avisti avistivu
havi hannu		av-eva av-evanu		appi appiru
<u>Present Perfect</u> <i>I have had, etc.</i>		<u>Pluperfect</u> <i>I had had, etc.</i>		<u>Present Subjunctive</u> Uses the present indicative
haiu avutu, etc.		aveva avutu, etc.		
<u>Imperfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I had, etc.</i>				<u>Past Perfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I had had, etc.</i>
av-issi av-issimu				avissi avutu, etc.
av-issi av-issivu				
av-issi av-issinu [-iru]				

Imperative: The auxiliary has a negative imperative, but no positive. The infinitive is used for this form:

Unn avir' paura. *Have no fear.*

Future: vivid present

Conditional: imperfect subjunctive

The Regular Verbs

First Conjugation -ari

Parrari, to speak

<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Present participle</u>	<u>Past participle</u>
parr-ari	parr-annu	parr-atu
<u>Present Indicative</u> <i>I speak, etc.</i>	<u>Imperfect</u> <i>I used to speak, etc.</i>	<u>Preterite</u> <i>I spoke, etc.</i>
parr-u parr-amu parr-i parr-ati parr-a parr-anu	parr-ava parr-avamu parr-avi parr-avavu parr-ava parr-avanu	parr-ai parr-ammu parr-asti parr-astivu parr-ò parr-aru
<u>Present Perfect</u> <i>I have spoken, etc.</i>	<u>Pluperfect</u> <i>I had spoken, etc.</i>	<u>Present Subjunctive</u> Uses the present indicative
haiu parratu, etc.	aveva parratu, etc.	
<u>Imperfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I spoke, etc.</i>		<u>Past Perfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I had spoken, etc.</i>
parr-assi parr-assimu parr-assi parr-assivu parr-assi parr-assinu [-iru]		avissi parratu, etc.
<u>Imperative:</u> positive - parra (tu), <i>speak</i> , parramu, <i>let us speak</i> parrati (vui), <i>speak</i>		
negative - unn parrari, <i>don't speak</i> , unn parrati, un parramu		

Future: vivid present

Ci parru dumani (I speak to him tomorrow)
I'll speak to him tomorrow

Quannu veni? (When does he come?)
When will he come?

Conditional: imperfect subjunctive

Si vinissi ci'u dicissi
If he were to come, I would tell him.

Second Conjugation - idiri

This conjugation includes verbs whose infinitives have the stress on the third syllable from the end - the antepenult.

Cridiri, to believe

<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Present participle</u>	<u>Past participle</u>
cr id -iri	cr id -enu	cr id -utu
<u>Present Indicative</u> <i>I believe, etc.</i>	<u>Imperfect</u> <i>I used to believe, etc.</i>	<u>Preterite</u> <i>I believed, etc.</i>
cr id -u cr id -emu cr id -iva cr id - <i>iv</i> amu cr id - <i>fi</i> cr id -immu	cr id -i cr id -iti cr id -ivi cr id - <i>iv</i> avu cr id - <i>isti</i> cr id - <i>ist</i> ivu	cr id -i cr id -inu cr id -iva cr id - <i>iv</i> anu cr id - <i>iu</i> cr id -iru
<u>Present Perfect</u> <i>I have believed, etc.</i>	<u>Pluperfect</u> <i>I had believed, etc.</i>	<u>Present Subjunctive</u> Uses the present indicative
haiu cr id utu, etc.	aveva cr id utu, etc.	
<u>Imperfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I believed, etc.</i>		<u>Past Perfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I had believed, etc.</i>
cr id -issi cr id - <i>iss</i> imu		avissi cr id utu, etc.
cr id -issi cr id - <i>iss</i> ivu		
cr id -issi cr id - <i>iss</i> inu [-iru]		
<u>Imperative:</u> <u>positive</u> - cr id i, <i>believe</i> , cr id iti, cr id emu		
<u>negative</u> - unn cr id iri, <i>don't believe</i> , unn cr id iti, unn cr id emu		

Future: vivid present

Ci cr**id**u quann' u vidu (I believe it when I see him.)
I'll believe it when I see him.

Conditional: imperfect subjunctive

Si mi dicissi a virità u cr**id**issi
If he told me the truth, I would believe him.

Third Conjugation - iri

Partiri, to leave, depart

<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Present participle</u>	<u>Past participle</u>
part-iri	part-ennu	par-titu
<u>Present Indicative</u> <i>I depart, etc.</i>	<u>Imperfect</u> <i>I used to depart, etc.</i>	<u>Preterite</u> <i>I departed, etc.</i>
part-u part-i part-i	part-emu part-iti <i>part-inu</i>	part-iva part-ivamu part-iva part-ivanu
<u>Present Perfect</u> <i>I have left, etc.</i>	<u>Pluperfect</u> <i>I had left, etc.</i>	<u>Present Subjunctive</u> Uses the present indicative
haiu partitu, etc.	aveva partitu, etc.	
<u>Imperfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I departed, etc.</i>		<u>Past Perfect Subjunctive</u> <i>(If) I had departed, etc.</i>
part-issi part-issi part-issi	par-tissimu part-issivu part-issinu [-iru]	avissi partitu, etc.

Imperative: positive - parti, leave, partiti, partemu
negative - unn partiri, don't leave, unn partiti, unn partemu

Future: vivid present

Partu quannu sugnu pruntu. (I leave when I am ready.)
I'll leave when I am ready.

Conditional: imperfect subjunctive

Si partissi mi facissi un favuri.
If he were to leave, he would do me a favor..

Finiri, to finish

As in Italian, the third conjugation has a number of verbs whose stem changes in the first, second and third singular and the third plural of the present indicative and in the second person singular of the positive imperative. These are:

finiri, to finish **capiri, to understand**
puliri, to clean **preferiri, to prefer**

Finiri is conjugated as follows:

<u>Present Indicative</u>		<u>Imperative</u>
<u>fini-sciu</u>	fin-emu	positive <u>fin-isci</u> , finish,
<u>fini-sci</u>	fin-iti	fin-iti, fin-emu
<u>fin-isci</u>	<u>fin-iscinu</u>	negative unn finiri, don't finish, etc

The Irregular Verbs

First Conjugation -ari

The following irregular verbs belong to the first conjugation:
dari, fari, stari. The irregular forms (paradigms) are underlined.

dari,
to give, is irregular in the present indicative and the preterite.
All the other tenses are regular.

Infinitive: da-ri Present participle: da-nnu Past participle: da-tu

Present Indicative
I give, etc.

Preterite
I gave, etc.

dugn-u da-mu
dun-i da-ti
dun-a da-nnu

de-tti de-ttimu
da-sti da-stivu
de-tti de-ttiru

fari, *to do,* is irregular in the present participle, the present indicative, the imperfect, the imperfect subjunctive, and the preterite, all of which use the stem of the obsolete alternate, **faciri**. All the other tenses are regular.

Infinitive: fa-ri Present participle: fac-ennu Past participle: fa-ttu

Present Indicative
I do, etc.

Imperfect
I used to do, etc.

Preterite
I did, etc.

fa-zzu[facciu]fac-emu fac-eva fac-evamu
fa-i fac-iti fac-evi fac-evavu

fi-ci fic-imu
fac-isti fac-istivu

fa fa-nnu fac-eva fac-evanu fic-i fic-iru

Imperfect subjunctive: fac-, issi, issi, issi, issimu, issivu, issinu

stari, *to stay, to be, to remain,* is irregular in the present indicative and the preterite. All the other tenses are regular.

Infinitive: sta-ri Present participle: sta-nnu Past participle: sta-tu

Present Indicative
I stay, etc.

Preterite
I stayed, etc.

sta-iu sta-mu
sta-i sta-ti
sta sta-nnu

ste-tti ste-ttimu
ste-tti ste-ttivu
ste-tti ste-ttinu

Second Conjugation -idiri

essiri, *to be,* is irregular in the participles, the present indicative, the imperfect, the preterite and the imperfect subjunctive.

Infinitive: ess-iri Present participle: se-nnu Past participle: sta-tu

Present Indicative
I am, etc.

Imperfect
I used to be, etc.

Preterite
I was, etc.

su-gnu se-mu er-a er-amu fui fu-mmu [fo-mo]
si s-iti er-i er-avu fusti fu-stivu
e su-nnu [-nu] er-a er-anu fu fu-ru [fo-ro]

Imperfect subjunctive: fu-, ssi, ssi, ssi, ssimu, ssivu, ssinu

mettiri, *to put, to place* is irregular in the preterite. There is a change in stem in the participles **mittenu** [**mettenu**], **mittutu**, and in the imperfect, similarly **mittiva** [**mettiva**].

Preterite: mi-si, mitt-isti, mi-si, mit-emmu, mitt-istivu, mitt-eru
perdiri, to lose, is irregular in the present indicative, in which the stem changes to **pir-** in the first and second persons plural: per-du, per-di, per-di, **pir-demu**, **pir-diti**, per-dinu.

vidiri, to see, is irregular in the past participle, **vistu** [or **vidutu**], and in the first person singular and third persons singular and plural of the preterite:

visti [vitti], vidisti, visti [vitti, vidu], videmmu, vidistivu, videru, [vistiru]

Third Conjugation - iri

aviri, see auxiliary, above

duviri [**doviri**], to have to, must, ought, is irregular in the participles and the present indicative. Note the mixture of both infinitive stems.

<u>Infinitive:</u> <u>duv-iri</u>	<u>Present participle:</u> <u>dov-ennu</u>	<u>Past participle:</u> <u>dov-utu</u>
	[<u>duv-ennu</u>]	[<u>duv-utu</u>]
<u>Present Indicative</u>	<u>Preterite</u>	
<i>I have to, etc.</i>	<i>I had to, etc.</i>	

<u>dev-u</u> <u>duv-emu</u>	<u>duv-iu</u> , etc.
<u>dev-i</u> <u>duv-iti</u>	<u>Imperfect subjunctive:</u>
<u>dev-i</u> <u>dev-inu</u>	<u>duv-</u> , <u>issi</u> , <u>issi</u> , <u>issi</u> , <u>issimu</u> , <u>issivu</u> , <u>issinu</u>

iri, to go, is irregular in the participles, the present indicative, the preterite, and the imperfect subjunctive.

<u>Infinitive:</u> <u>ir-i</u>	<u>Present participle:</u> <u>ie-nnu</u>	<u>Past participle:</u> <u>i-utu</u>
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Present Indicative

I go, etc.

Preterite

I went, etc.

<u>va-iu</u> <u>ie-mu</u> [<u>va-ju</u> ; <u>je-mu</u>]	[<u>ji-u</u> , <u>ji-sti</u> , etc.]	<u>ii-u</u>	<u>ie-mmu</u>
<u>va-i</u>	<u>i-ti</u> [<u>ji-ti</u>]	<u>ii-sti</u>	<u>ii-stivu</u>
<u>va</u>	<u>va-nnu</u>	<u>ii-u</u>	<u>ie-ru</u>

Imperfect subjunctive: i-, issi, issi, issi, issimu, issivu, issinu

muriri, to die, is irregular in the past participle (**mortu**) and the present indicative, in which the stem changes to **mor-** in the first, second and third persons singular and the third person plural.

Present Indicative: mor-u, mor-i, mor-i, mur-emu, mur-iti, mor-inu

putiri, to be able to, is irregular in the present indicative, and the preterite.

Present Indicative:

I can, etc.

Preterite:

I was able to

<u>po-zzu</u> <u>put-emo</u>	<u>pott-i</u> <u>pott-imu</u>
<u>po-i</u> <u>put-iti</u>	<u>put-isti</u> <u>put-istivu</u>
<u>pò</u> <u>po-nnu</u>	<u>pott-i</u> <u>pott-iru</u>

Imperfect subjunctive: put-, issi, issi, issi, issimu, issivu, issinu

sapiri, to know, is irregular in the present indicative and the preterite.

Present Indicative:

I know, etc.

sacci-u sap-emo

sa-i sap-iti

sap-i sa-nnu

Preterite:

I knew

sapp-i sapp-immu

sap-isti sap-istivu

sapp-i sapp-iru

tin/ri [**teniri**], to keep, to hold, is irregular in the present indicative, and the preterite.

Infinitive: tin- **iri** Present participle: tin- **ennu** Past participle: tin- **utu**

Present Indicative

I hold, etc.

tegn-u tin-emu

te-ni tin-iti

te-ni ten-inu

Preterite

I held, etc.

tinn-i tin-emma

tin-isti tin-istivu

tinn-i tinn-eru

Imperfect subjunctive: **tinn-** issi, etc.

vin/ri [**veniri**], to come, is irregular in the present indicative, and the preterite and is conjugated like **tin/ri**.

vul/ri, to wish, to want, is irregular in the present indicative.

Infinitive: vul-iri Present participle: vul-ennu Past participle: vul-utu

Present Indicative

I wish, etc.

vogghi-u vul-emu

vo-i vul-iti

vol-i vo-nnu

issi, etc.

Preterite

I wished, etc.

vul-**iu**, etc.

Imperfect subjunctive: vul-

Note the following uses of verbs:

1. The English gerund in *-ing* used as subject, predicate nominative, or direct object of a verb must be rendered in Sicilian by the *infinitive*.

Mi piaci **viaggiari**. *I like travelling.*

Odiu **studiari**. *I hate studying.*

2. The English gerund preceded by a preposition is translated as follows:

di, of **inveci di**, instead of **senza**, without
doppu di, after **prima di**, before

U vizio **di fumari**.

The habit of smoking.

Doppu di parrari...

After speaking...

Inveci di criticari...

Instead of criticizing...

Prima di muriri...

Before dying...

Parranu **senza** pinsari. *They speak **without** thinking.*

3. After **fari**, to make or to have (i.e. to cause), **sentiri**, to hear, and **vidiri**, to see, Sicilian uses the infinitive to express an English past participle.

Si fa **capiri**. *He makes himself understood.*
Fazzu **fari** un paru di scarpi. *I shall have a pair of shoes made.*
Sentu **diri**.. *I hear it said ...*
U visti **ammazzari**. *I saw him killed.*

4. After **lassari**, to let, and often after the preposition **da**, a Sicilian active infinitive is used to translate a passive one in English.

Si lassa **ingannari**. *He lets himself be deceived.*
Unn c'è nenti da **fari**. *There is nothing to be done.*

5. When used as an adjective, the past participle is inflected like any other adjective.

Sti vasi sunnu **rutti**. *These vases are broken.*

6. In negative commands, the infinitive is always used instead of the second person singular of the imperative.

Fallu. *Do it.*
Unn u **fari**. *Don't do it.*

7. The imperfect denotes a continuing action, while the preterite is used to describe an action that has been completed.

Trasù mentri **durmivamu**. *He entered while we were sleeping.*
U **fici** l'annu passatu. *He did it last year.*

SICILIAN-ENGLISH VOCABULARY

A

a, [la], *f., sing. i, li, pl.*, the
a, *prep.*, to, at
abbacu, *n.m.*, abacus
accattai, *1st s. pret. of*
accattari, to buy
accantu a, *prep.*, along, by
affari, *n.m.*, affair, business
affinchè, *conj.*, in order that
aieri, *adv.*, yesterday
aierisira, *adv.*, last night
albergu, *n.m.*, hotel
alcuni, *adj.*, some
altrimenti, *conj.*, or else
ammazzari, *vb.*, to kill
amicu, *n.m.*, friend
amu, *1st s. pres. ind. of amari*,
to love
anchi, *conj.*, also, too
aneddu, *n.m.*, ring
angilu, *n.m.*, angel
annu, *n.m.*, year
anticu, *n.m., adj.*, ancient
anzi, *conj.*, rather
aprili, *n.m.*, april
arrivò, *3d s. pret. of arrivari*,
to arrive
autri, *pron.*, others
autru, *adj.*, other

avantaieri, *adv.*, day before
yesterday
aviri, *vb.*, to have
azioni, *n. f.*, action

B

beddu, *adj.*, pretty
bellu, *adj.*, fine
benchì, *conj.*, although
beni, *adv.*, well
bonu, *adj.*, good
bracciu[brazzu], *n.m.* (pl.-a)
arm
brindisi, *n.m.*, toast
bruttiredda, *pron.*, somewhat
ugly
bruttu, *adj.*, ugly, bad
burru, *n.m.*, butter
buccazza, *n. f.*, big mouth
buccuncinu, *n.m.*, a mouthful,
the sweet ricotta-
filled pastry.

C

ca, *rel. pron.*, that, which
cà [cca], *adv.*, here
Canadà, *n.m.*, Canada

cani, *n.m.*, dog
canusci, *3d s. pres. ind. of canusciri*, to know
capiri, *vb.*, to understand
Carlu, *n.m.*, Charles
casicedda, *n. f.*, small house
castigu, *n.m.*, punishment
casu, *conj.*, in case
certu, *adj.*, certain
chi, *adv.*, than, *conj.*, than, that, *rel. pron.* [ca], that, which
chiamari, *vb.*, to call
chiaru, *adj., adv.*, clear, clearly
chiaramenti, *adv.*, clearly
chiddu, *pron., m.*, that one
chiesa, *n. f.*, church
chiù, *adj.*, more
chissu, *pron., m.*, that one
chistu, *pron., m.*, this one
chiumqui, *pron.*, whoever
ci, *pron.*, to him, to her, to them; *adv.*, there
ciascunu, *pron.*, each, every
cincu, *adj.*, five
cintinaru, *n.m.*, hundred
cità, *n. f.*, city
circa (*approx.*), *prep.*, about
coci, *3d s. pres. ind. of cociri*, to cook
colera, *n.m.*, cholera
collega, *n.m.*, colleague
comu, *adv.*, how, like, *conj.*, as

còmu? *adv.*, what's?
comu anchi, *conj.*, as well as
contra, *prep.*, against
cosa, *n. f.*, thing
cridi, *2d s. pres. ind. of cridiri*, to believe
criticari, *vb.*, to criticize
cu, *prep.*, with.
cu, *pron.*, who, whom
cui, *pron.*, who, which
cuntenti, *n.m.*, content
cuntò, *3d s. pret. cuntari*, to count
cupula, *n. f.*, cupola
curtu, *adj.*, short

D

da, *prep.*, from
dachì, *conj.*, since (temporal)
dari, *vb.*, to give
darrerri, *prep.*, behind
datu chi, *conj.*, granting that
davanti a, *prep.*, before (place), in front of
dà, [dda] *prep.*, by
ddocu, *adv.* there
decina, *n. f.*, about ten
determinazioni, *n. f.*, determination
devi, *3d s. pres. ind. of duviri*, to have to, ought
di, *prep.*, of

dicinu, *3d pl. pres. ind. of diri*, to say
difettu, *n.m.*, fault, defect
dinocchiu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a), knee
dintra di, *prep.*, inside of
dirrimpettu, *prep.*, opposite
docu [ddocu], *adv.*, there
doppu, *prep.*, after
doppu chi, *conj.*, after
doppu dumani, *adv.*, day after tomorrow
du, *adj., m.*, that
dui, *adj.*, two
dumani, *adv.*, tomorrow
duna, *3d s. pres. ind. of dari*, to give
dunca, *conj.*, then, (*però*, *perciò*, therefore)
duranti, *prep.*, during
duviri, *vb.*, to have to
duzzina, *n.m.*, dozen

E

e, *conj.*, and
è, *3d s. pres. ind. of essiri*, to be
eccettu, *prep.*, except
eccettu chi, *conj.*, unless
entrammi, *pron., adj.*, both
essiri, *vb.*, to be

F

fa, *adv.*, ago
fari, *vb.*, to do
favuri, *n.m.*, favor
fazzu, *1st s. pres. ind. of fari*, to do
felici, *adj.*, happy
ficu, *n.m.*, fig tree
ficu, *n. f.*, fig
figghiu, *n.m.*, son
Filippu, *n.m.*, Philip
fimmina, *n. f.*, woman
fina, *prep.*, as far as
finchì, *conj.*, until
finiri, *vb.*, to finish
fisiologu, *n.m.*, physiologist
fora di, *prep.*, outside of, out of
fra, *prep.*, among, between, within
francamenti, *adv.*, frankly
francisi, *n.m., adj.*, French
francu, *adv.*, frank
frati, *n.m.*, brother
fruttu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) fruit
fuga, *n. f.*, flight
fumari, *vb.*, to smoke

G

gattu, *n.m.*, cat

gentilissimu, *adj.*, very gentle, very kind
gestu, *n.m.*, gesture, sign
giacchi, *prep.*, as for
giardinu, *n.m.*, garden
giuvani, *adj.*, young
granni, [ranni], *adj.*, big, great
greco, *n.m.*, Greek
gridu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) shout
guancia, *n.f.*, cheek

I

iddu, *pron.*, he
iddi, *pron.*, they
iditu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) finger
in, *prep.*, in
i, li, l', *art.*, *m., f., pl.*, the
imparari, *vb.*, to learn
in, *prep.*, in
indicu, *n.m.*, indigo
ingannari, *vb.*, to deceive
insigna, *3d s. pres.ind. of*
insignari, to teach
intonacu, *n.m.*, plaster
intornu a, *prep.*, about
(around)
intrinsicu, *adj.*, intrinsic
inveci di, *prep.*, instead of
iornu, *n.m.*, day
iri, *vb.*, to go

L

labbru, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) lip
lagu, *n.m.*, lake
largu, *adj.*, wide
lastricu, *n.m.*, pavement
latriceddu, *n.m.*, something of
a thief
latu, di stu..., *prep.*, on this
side
Lei, *pron.*, you (an Italian
borrowing)
libbru, *n.m.*, book
lignu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) wood
limuni, *n.m.s.*, lemon, lemon
tree
littra, *n.f.*, letter
longu, *adj.*, long
luntanu, *adv.*, distant, far.

M

ma, *conj.*, but
maggiu, *n.m.*, may
macchina a vapuri, *n.m.*,
steam engine
maggiuri, *adj.*, larger, older
maistà, *n.m.*, majesty
malu, *adj., adv.*, bad
manazza, *n.m.*, big hands

mancanu, *3d pl. pres.ind. of*
mancari, to lack
manicu, *n.m.*, handle
mangia, *3d s. pres.ind. of*
mangiari, to eat
manu, *n.f.*, hand
Maria, *n.f.*, Mary
matri, *n.f.*, mother
me, mè, *adj., pron.*, my, mine
medicu, *n.m.*, doctor
megghiu, *adj., adv.*, better
membu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) member
mentri, *conj.*, while
menu, *adv., pron., adj.*, less
a... chi, *conj.*, unless
menzu, *adj.*, half
menzu, nu... di, *prep.*, in the
midst of
menzu, pir... di, by means of
mettiri, *vb.*, to put
mi, *pron.*, myself
mìa, *pron.*, me
migghiaru, *n.m.*, thousand
migghiu, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) mile
minsogna, *n.f.*, lie
minuri, *adj.*, smaller; younger
mità, *n.f.*, half
modu, di... chi (result), *conj.*
so that
monarca, *n.m.*, monarch
motivu, pir... di, *prep.*,
because of
munita, *n.f.*, money

murìu, *3d s. pret. of muriri*, to
die
muru, *n.m.*, (pl.-a) wall

N

nascinu, *3d pl. pres.ind. of*
nasciri, to be born
nasuni, *n.m.*, big-nose
nè, *conj.*, nor
nè... nè, *conj.*, neither... nor
neanchi, *conj.*, nor even
nemicu [nimicu], *n.m.*, enemy
nenti, *pron.*, nothing
nent' autru, *pron.*, nothing
else
neppuru, *conj.*, nor... either
nessunu, *pron.*, no one
ni, *pron.*, of it, ourselves; *adv.*
of it
niautri [nuautri, nui], *pron.*,
we
nicu, *adj.*, small
nnomu, *n.m.*, name
no, *adv.*, no
non, [nun, unn] *adv.*, not
non... chiù, *pron.*, no more
non... mai, *adv.*, never
nonu, *adj.*, ninth
nostru, *adj.*, our
notti, *n.f.*, night

nuautri [*niautri,nui*],
pron., we
nuddu, *pron.*, no one
nulla, *nothing*
numerusu, *pron., adj.*, many
nundimenu, *conj.*, nevertheless

O

o, *conj.*, or
oca, *n. f.*, goose
odiari, *vb.*, to hate
oggi, *adv.*, today
ogni, *adj.*, each, every
ognunu, *adj.*, each, every
oltri, *prep.*, besides (in
addition to), beyond
omu, *n. m.*, man
onnibus, *n. m.*, omnibus
onuri, *n. m.*, honor
opuru, *conj.*, or
ora, *adv.*, now
ora ora, *adv.*, right away
ossu, *n. m.*, (pl.-a) bone
ovu, *n. m.*, (pl.-a) egg

P

pagari, *vb.*, to pay
palla, *n. f.*, ball
palazzu, *n. m.*, palace, mansion
pani, *n. m.*, bread
panuzzu, *n. m.*, bread
paricchi, *adj.*, several

Parigi, *n. f.*, Paris
parocu, *n. m.*, parish priest
parrari, *vb.*, to speak
parti, *n. f.*, part, side
partiri, *vb.*, to leave, depart
paura, *n. f.*, fear
paru, *n. m.*, pair
patri, *n. m.*, father
pedi, *n. m.*, foot
peggiu, *adj., adv.*, worse
perdiri, *vb.*, to lose
picciottu, *n. m.*, boy
picciridda, *n. f.*, little girl
pir [*pi'*, *pri*], *prep.*, for,
through
pirchì, *conj.*, for, because,
so that (in order that)
pirsuna, *n. f.*, person
piru, *n. m.*, pear tree, **pira**, *n. f.*
pear
pocu, *pron., adj.*, little
porcu, *n. m.*, pig
poviru, *adj.*, poor
prestu, *adv.*, soon
priggiuni, *n. f.*, the prison
prima di, *prep.*, before (time)
prima chi, *conj.*, before
primu, *adj.*, 1st
professuri [*prufissuri*], *n. m.*,
professor, teacher
prontu, *adj.*, ready
prumettu, *1st s., pres. ind. of*
prumettiri, to promise

proponi, *3d s., pres. ind. of*
proponiri, to propose
pueta, *n. m.*, poet
pulitu, *adj.*, clean, neat
pumu, *n. m.*, apple (pl. -a)
purchì, *conj.*, provided that
puru, *conj.*, too
putemu, *1st pl., pres. ind.*
putiri, to be able to

Q

qualchi, *adj.*, some,
qualcunu, *pron.*, anybody
qualchicosa, *pron.*, anything
qualchidunu, *pron.*, anybody
quali, *pron.*, which
qualunqui, *pron.*, whatever
quannu, *conj.*, when
quannu di, *prep.*, since
quantu, *pron.*, as much as,
how much
quantu a, *prep.*, as to
quartu, *adj.*, fourth
quinto, *adj.*, fifth

R

ragiuni, *n. f.*, reason
rammaricu, *n. m.*, sorrow
ranni [*granni*], *adj.*, big, large
re, *n. m.*, king

riccu, *adj.*, rich
riggina, *n. f.*, queen
riloggiu, *n. m.*, watch
risicu, *n. m.*, risk
rispunniri, *vb.*, to answer,
respond
romanu, *adj.*, Roman
rotunnu, *adj.*, round

S

sala da pranzu, *n. f.*, dining
room
saluti, *n. f.*, health
Santu, *n. m.*, Saint
sapi, *3d s., pres. ind. of sapi*,
to know
sasizza, *n. f.*, sausage
scappanu, *3d pl., pres. ind. of*
scappari, to escape, flee
scarpa, *n. m.*, shoe
sciura, *n. f.*, flower
scola, *n. f.*, school
scrittu, *n. m.*, the writing
scriviri, *vb.*, to write
scutu, *n. m.*, dollar
sebbeni, *conj.*, although
seculu, *n. m.*, century
secunnu, *adj.*, second; *prep.*,
according to
seggia, *n. f.*, chair
sempri, *adv.*, always
senza, *prep.*, without

si, *pron.*, himself, herself, themselves (m.,f.)
si, *conj.*, if, whether
sì, *adv.*, yes
siccomu, *conj.*, as (since)
signura, *n. f.*, woman, lady
silenziusu, *adj.*, silent
simenza, *n. f.*, seed
sincerità, *n. f.*, sincerity
sinu, *prep.*, up to
so, s'ò, *adj., pron.*, his, her (s), their (s)
sofà, *n. m.*, sofa
soru, *n. f.*, sister
Spagna, *n. f.*, Spain
specchiu, *n. m.*, mirror
specii, *n. f.*, kind, species
spissu, *adv.*, often
stamatina, *adv.*, this morning
stanza, *n. f.*, room
stari, *vb.*, to stay, to be
strascicu, *n. m.*, train (of a dress)
stasira, *adv.*, this evening
strata, *n. f.*, street
stomacu, *n. m.*, stomach
stanotti, *adv.*, last night
stu [chistu], *adj.*, this, this one
studia, *3d s., pres. ind. of studiari*, to study
su [chissu], *adj., m.*, that
sugnu, *1st s... pres. ind. of essiri*, to be

sunnu [sunu], *3d pl. pres. ind. of essiri*, to be
supra, *prep.*, above, on, over
sutta, *prep.*, below, under

T

tali, *pron.*, such, so, like
talìa *3d s., pres. ind. of taliari*, to look
tavula, *n. f.*, table
tantu... comu, *adv.*, as... as
tantu menu, *conj.*, much less
tantu... quantu, *adv.*, as... as
telegramma, *n. m.*, telegram
terra, *n. f.*, earth
terzu, *adj.*, third
ti, *pron.*, yourself
tìa, *s. pron.*, you
tenìri, *vb.*, to keep, to hold
to, tò, *adj., pron.*, your, yours
tossicu, *n. m.*, toxic
tra, *prep.*, within
traficu, *n. m.*, trade
tranni, *prep.*, except
tratta, *3d s., pres. ind. of trattari*, to deal with
travagghia, *3d s. pres. ind. of travagghiari*, to work
trentina, *n. f.*, about thirty
troppu, *adj.*, too much, too
tu, *pron.*, 2nd s., you
tuttavia, *conj.*, however

tutti dui, *pron.*, both

U

u, [**lu**], *def. art., m., sing., i*, [**li**] *pl*, the, it
unn [non], *adv.*, no, not
unni, *adv., conj.*, where
unni, di, *conj.*, whence
unu, *ind. art., one (l'unu e l'autru)*, *pron.* (both)
ura, *n. f.*, hour

V

vayu [vaiu, vaju], *1st p. s., pres. ind. of iri*, to go
vecchiu, *adj.*, old
veni, *3d s., pres. ind. of veniri*, **vinìri**, to come
versu, *prep.*, toward
vestirsi [vistirsi], *vb.*, to dress oneself
vi, *pron.*, to you, for you, yourselves

vicinu, *adv.*, nearby
vicinu a, *prep.*, near
vidiri, *vb.*, to see
vidu, *3d s., pres. ind. of vidiri*, to see
vintina, *n. f.*, about twenty
vinu, *n. m.*, wine
virtù, *n. f.*, virtue
vostru, *adj.*, your
vota, *n. f.*, turn, time
vuatri [vui, vossia], *pron.*, you
vuliti *2d pl., pres. ind. of vuliri*, *vb.*, to want
vuliri beni, to like, to love
vutti, *n. f.*, barrel

Z

zaccu [zoccu, soccu], *pron.*, what, that which
ziu, *n. m.*, uncle

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