



Learn Sicilian/Mparamu lu sicilianu

INTERACTIVE LESSONS

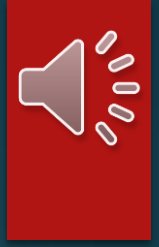
WITH PROFESSOR GAETANO CIPOLLA

LESSON I

Lesson I



- ▶ In this lesson you will learn that Sicilian has two categories of verbs, those that end in *ari* like *parrari*, (to speak) and *mparari* (to learn), and those that end in *iri* like *scriviri* (to write) and *rispunniri* (to answer).
- ▶ You will also learn the first two persons of the verb *vuliri* (to want) in the present tense: *Vogghiu* (I want) and *voi* (you want). The verb *vuliri* is a useful verb because you can combine it with the infinitive of other verbs and you can form dozens of sentences like “I want to learn Sicilian, I want to take a walk, you want to write in Sicilian” etc.
- ▶ You will also learn how to formulate questions and how to answer in the affirmative and in the negative form.
- ▶ Please listen to the instructions and try to answer the questions by imitating the instructor’s pronunciation. Let’s begin!



- ▶ This is an interactive exercise. I will play the part of the instructor, and as you are not here, I will play your part as well, leaving some time for you to answer. You should use my answers to check your pronunciation.
- ▶ Let's start with a question: What do you want to do? *Chi voi fari?*
- ▶ Repeat after me: *Chi voi fari?* Again, *Chi voi fari?* Now ask me “What do you want to do?”
- ▶ Student: *Chi voi fari?*
- ▶ Instructor: *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.* (I want to learn Sicilian.) Please repeat: *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.*
- ▶ Student: *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: Now I will ask you: *Chi voi fari?*
- ▶ Student: *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Bravu!* (Excellent) In Sicilian the sentence *voi mparari lu sicilianu* simply means “You want to learn Sicilian.” To turn the sentence into a question all you need to do is change the intonation as follows: *voi mparari lu sicilianu?* It would help if you lean to the right as you ask the question: *voi mparari lu sicilianu?* Try it!




- ▶ Instructor: now ask me the question: *voi mparari lu sicilianu?* Do you want to learn Sicilian?
- ▶ Student: *voi mparari lu sicilianu?*
- ▶ Instructor: *si, vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.* Please repeat after me: *si, vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.* Now if you don't want to learn Sicilian, just put *non* before the first verb: Ask me again if I want to learn Sicilian.
- ▶ Student: *voi mparari lu sicilianu?*
- ▶ Instructor: *no, non vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.* Repeat after me: *no, non vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: Let's learn a few more verbs. Ask me What do you want to do?
- ▶ Student: *Chi voi fari?*
- ▶ Instructor: *Vogghiu parrari sicilianu.* I want to speak Sicilian. Repeat it after me:
- ▶ Student: *Vogghiu parrari sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Voi parrari sicilianu?* Answer affirmatively!



- ▶ Student: *Si, vughhiu parrari sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Voi parrari giappunisi?* Answer negatively!
- ▶ Student: *No, non vughhiu parrari giappunisi.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Voi parrari francisi?* Answer negatively and tell me what you want to speak!
- ▶ Student: *No, non vughhiu parrari francisi. Vughhiu parrari sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: Ask me “What do you want to do?”
- ▶ Student: *Chi voi fari?*
- ▶ Instructor: *Vughhiu scriviri in sicilianu.* I want to write in Sicilian. Repeat please.
- ▶ Student: *Vughhiu scriviri in sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Voi scriviri in sicilianu?* Do you want to write in Sicilian?
- ▶ Student: *Si, vughhiu scriviri in sicilianu.*



- ▶ Instructor: *Voi rispunniri in sicilianu?* (*rispunniri* to answer)
- ▶ Student: *Si, vogghiu rispunniri in sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Voi rispunniri in francisi?* Answer no and tell me how you want to answer.
- ▶ Student: *No, non vogghiu rispunniri in francisi. Vogghiu rispunniri in sicilianu.*
- ▶ Instructor: A more complex question: *Pirchi voi mparari lu sicilianu?* Why do you want to learn Sicilian? Repeat the question!
- ▶ Student: *Pirchi voi mparari lu sicilianu?*
- ▶ Instructor: *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu pirchi vogghiu parrari cu me nannu.* I want to learn Sicilian because I want to speak with my grandfather. Repeat please.
- ▶ Student: *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu pirchi vogghiu parrari cu me nannu.*
- ▶ Instructor: *Voi mparari lu sicilianu pirchi voi parrari cu to nannu?* Do you want to learn Sicilian because you want to talk with your grandfather?
- ▶ Student: *Si, vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu pirchi vogghiu parrari cu me nannu.*

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- ▶ Instructor: Here are a few questions you should be able to answer correctly:
 - ▶ 1. Chi lingua voi mparari? *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu.*
 - ▶ 2. Voi mparari lu francisi? *No, non vogghiu mparari lu francisi.*
 - ▶ 3. Voi scriviri in giappunisi? *No, non vogghiu scriviri in giappunisi.*
 - ▶ 4. Pirchi voi mparari lu sicilianu? *Vogghiu mparari lu sicilianu pirchi vogghiu parrari cu me nannu.*
 - ▶ 5. Voi parrari sicilianu cu to nannu? *Si, vogghiu parrari sicilianu cu me nannu.*