

## SIT 12 – At The Chemist's

The dialogue is set in a chemist's shop. The language is formal because the two speakers do not know each other. There is a customer and then there is a doctor who works at the chemist's shop. The customer is a lady. She is there because she doesn't feel very well.

In this dialogue you can revise the use of formal speech, as well as you can learn the terms related to health. It is a very useful topic.

In the drill, you will find further practice in informal speech. So try to acquire the various terms and -as usual- try to compare the expressions used in formal and informal situations.

<b>Influenza</b>	Flue	<i>F</i>
<b>contro</b>	Against	
<b>poco bene / non molto bene</b>	Not very well	
<b>mal di gola</b>	Sorethroat	<i>M</i>
<b>non respiro bene</b>	I don't (can't) breathe well	
<b>dolore</b>	Pain	<i>M</i>
<b>qualche</b>	Some	
<b>mal di schiena</b>	Backache	<i>M</i>
<b>mal di stomaco</b>	Stomachache	<i>M</i>
<b>mal di denti</b>	toothache	<i>M</i>
<b>si tratta dell'influenza</b>	It is due to the flue	
<b>si tratta di ...</b>	It is about ...	
<b>compresse</b>	Tablets	<i>F Plural</i>
<b>pillole</b>	Pills	<i>F Plural</i>
<b>due volte</b>	Twice	
<b>a stomaco pieno</b>	On a full stomach	
<b>se la febbre non scende</b>	If the temperature doesn't fall	
<b>vada dal medico</b>	Go to the doctor	<i>Formal</i>
<b>prendere una medicina</b>	To take a medicine	
<b>dovrebbero bastare</b>	They should be enough	
<b>ho capito</b>	I see, I understand	
<b>quant'è?</b>	How much is it?	
<b>Tessera sanitaria</b>	Health insurance card	<i>F</i>
<b>Faccio un salto</b>	I'll drop in / I'll pop in	<i>Informal</i>
<b>Mi sta uccidendo</b>	It is killing me	<i>Informal</i>
<b>Ho bisogno di sedermi</b>	I need to sit down	
<b>Mi gira la testa</b>	I feel dizzy	
<b>Che sfortuna!</b>	What bad luck!	
<b>Le farmacie sono chiuse</b>	Chemists are shut	
<b>Farmacia di turno</b>	Chemist on duty	
<b>Cercare su internet</b>	To search on the net, to browse	
<b>Navigare su internet</b>	To surf the internet	



As you have noticed so far, the switch from formal to informal language is often obtained through a small change in the verb:

<u>Ha</u> qualcosa contro l'influenza?	Do you have something against the flue?	FORMAL
<u>Hai</u> un'aspirina?	Do you have an aspirin?	INFORMAL

The formal speech uses the third person of the verb (lui, lei / he, she, it), and the pronoun used is "lei" (though the subject pronoun is often omitted).

Sometimes, however, this change can be more difficult:

<u>Provi</u> questa medicina	Try this medicine	FORMAL
<u>Prova</u> questa medicina	Try this medicine	INFORMAL

<u>Mi dia</u> uno sciroppo, per favore	Give me a cough syrup, please	FORMAL
<u>Dammi</u> lo sciroppo, per favore	Give me the cough syrup, please	INFORMAL

Le compresse che <u>le</u> ho dato	The tablets I gave you	FORMAL
Le compresse che <u>ti</u> ho dato	The tablets I gave you	INFORMAL

At this stage, it is important for you just to practice the active language and to notice differences or strange aspects. Do not be afraid of raising doubts. The next two steps of Language Naturally will be devoted to the analysis of all the single aspects of the Italian language, and all the doubts raised here will find a proper explanation and a specific practice.