



Italian Companion Guide

Congratulations on choosing **Little Pim Italian**.

This *Little Pim Companion Guide* is designed to help you with the proper Italian pronunciation if you want to learn along with your young viewer. Children are visual and aural learners – they watch the screen, hear what’s being said, and easily understand and repeat; and as they repeat after Little Pim the teacher, they will have perfect accents! Adults, however, may need a bit of written help to understand the differences in pronunciation and/or to remember new words.

This guide will give you some tips about the right way to pronounce Italian letters and words. If you would like additional support, you can:

- Download our *Companion Script*, which includes all the words and phrases in **Little Pim** in Italian and English. If you want to read all the words and sentences as they are spoken, you can print this out and follow along with the DVD.
- Choose the optional English Subtitles in the Start Up Menu of the DVD to read English subtitles as you watch

The big picture:

Vowels:

Italian has five vowel letters, a, e, i, o and u. Each of these vowels have two separate sounds, except for a.

- **a** is pronounced like the ah in “far”
- **e** can be pronounced like the eh in “get” or like the ay in “grey”
- **i** is pronounced like the ee in “meet”
- **o** can be pronounced like in “often” or “oh” like in “rope”
- **u** is pronounced like the u in “put”

Consonants:

The sounds of many Italian consonants are pronounced like their English equivalents, but there are some differences. For example:

- **C** is pronounced like the English ch when it is before an e or an i. Otherwise it is pronounced c like in cat. ch is pronounced c like in “cat”
- **G** is pronounced g like in “gym” when it is before an e or an i, otherwise it is pronounced g like in “go”. gh is pronounced g like in “go”. gl is pronounced like in “million”. gn is pronounced like the ny in canyon, or like the Spanish ñ.
- **H** is always silent
- **R** is rolled or trilled, like in Spanish
- **S** is pronounced like the s in “nose” when it is between two vowels. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the s in “sit”. sc is pronounced sk like in “skip”, unless it is between two vowels and is pronounced sh like in “ship”
- **Z** is pronounced ts like in “slits” or ds like in “dads”.

Notes on Italian

- Like Spanish and French, Italian has masculine and feminine nouns.