



VELOCITO.IT

Learn Italian. Live Italian.



100 Espressioni Italiane Intraducibili

	Italiano	Traduzione letterale	Traduzione corretta + spiegazione
1	Non ho capito un cavolo	I didn't understand a cabbage	I didn't get a damn thing (colloquiale, "cavolo" attenua "ca**o")
2	In bocca al lupo	In the wolf's mouth	Good luck! ("Crepì il lupo!" è la risposta)
3	Acqua in bocca	Water in your mouth	Keep it secret, don't spill it
4	Avere le mani in pasta	To have hands in dough	To be involved, to have influence
5	Essere al verde	To be at the green	To be broke, no money
6	Andare a letto con le galline	Go to bed with the hens	To go to bed very early
7	Chi dorme non piglia pesci	Who sleeps doesn't catch fish	The early bird catches the worm
8	Piove sul bagnato	It rains on the wet	The rich get richer / misfortunes pile up
9	Tirare le cuoia	To pull the leathers	To die
10	Non tutte le ciambelle escono col buco	Not all donuts come with a hole	Things don't always turn out as planned
11	Avere la puzza sotto il naso	To have the stink under the nose	To be snobbish
12	Andare in fumo	To go up in smoke	To be wasted, to vanish

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13	Cadere dalle nuvole	To fall from the clouds	To be caught completely by surprise
14	Avere il dente avvelenato	To have a poisoned tooth	To hold a grudge
15	Dare del filo da torcere	To give twisted thread	To give someone a hard time
16	Avere le mani bucate	To have holes in your hands	To spend money carelessly
17	Attaccare bottone	To attach a button	To strike up a conversation
18	Avere la luna storta	To have the crooked moon	To be in a bad mood
19	Essere una testa di cavolo	To be a cabbage head	To be an idiot (light insult)
20	Non avere peli sulla lingua	Not to have hairs on the tongue	To be straightforward / blunt
21	Campa cavallo che l'erba cresce	Live horse, grass grows	Don't hold your breath (it'll take forever)
22	Cercare il pelo nell'uovo	To look for the hair in the egg	To nitpick
23	Essere alla frutta	To be at the fruit	To be done/exhausted
24	Farsela sotto	To do it under yourself	To be really scared (to sh** your pants)
25	Mettere troppa carne al fuoco	To put too much meat on the fire	To take on too many tasks
26	Non stare né in cielo né	Not to be in heaven or	To make no sense

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	in terra	on earth	
27	Rimanere di sasso	To remain of stone	To be shocked
28	Rimanere a bocca asciutta	To be left with a dry mouth	To be left with nothing
29	Sudare sette camicie	To sweat seven shirts	To work very hard
30	Tenere il piede in due scarpe	To keep a foot in two shoes	To play both sides
31	Andare a rotoli	To go rolling	To fall apart
32	Non avere né arte né parte	To have neither art nor part	To be useless, good for nothing
33	Cavarsela	To get oneself out of it	To manage, to cope
34	Essere alla mano	To be at the hand	To be easygoing
35	Avere fegato	To have liver	To be brave
36	Avere un diavolo per capello	To have a devil for each hair	To be furious
37	Col cavolo!	With the cabbage!	No way! (colloquial)
38	Avere un chiodo fisso	To have a fixed nail	To be obsessed
39	Far venire l'acquolina in bocca	To make drool in the mouth	To make your mouth water
40	Dare nell'occhio	To hit in the eye	To attract attention
41	Essere un pezzo di pane	To be a piece of bread	To be a very good person

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42	Non muovere un dito	Not move a finger	To not lift a finger
43	Essere quattro gatti	To be four cats	To be very few people
44	Essere sul pezzo	To be on the piece	To be on top of things
45	Avere la testa fra le nuvole	To have the head among the clouds	To be daydreaming
46	Togliersi un peso	To remove a weight	To feel relieved
47	Mandare a quel paese	Send to that village	To tell someone to get lost (polite for vaff***)
48	Essere un rompiscatole	To be a box breaker	To be annoying
49	Fare il passo più lungo della gamba	To make a step longer than the leg	To bite off more than you can chew
50	Farsi in quattro	To split in four	To do everything possible
51	Non avere il becco di un quattrino	Not have the beak of a coin	To be penniless
52	Essere fuori come un balcone	To be outside like a balcony	To be crazy
53	Andare a ruba	To go stolen	To sell out quickly
54	Dare corda	To give rope	To indulge someone
55	Non stare più nella pelle	Not stay in the skin	To be very excited
56	Essere un libro aperto	To be an open book	To be transparent / easy to read
57	Essere alla canna del	To be at the gas pipe	To be in big trouble, broke

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	gas		
58	Avere un asso nella manica	To have an ace in the sleeve	To have a secret advantage
59	Saltare di palo in frasca	Jump from pole to branch	To change subject abruptly
60	Non avere testa	Not to have a head	To be careless / distracted
61	Andare a gonfie vele	To go with swollen sails	To go very well
62	Avere la faccia tosta	To have a tough face	To be shameless
63	Tagliare la corda	To cut the rope	To run away
64	Restare con un palmo di naso	To be left with a palm of nose	To be disappointed, fooled
65	Essere l'anello debole	To be the weak ring	To be the weak link
66	Essere un pesce fuor d'acqua	To be a fish out of water	To feel out of place
67	Avere le farfalle nello stomaco	To have butterflies in stomach	To feel in love / nervous
68	Buttare soldi dalla finestra	To throw money from the window	To waste money
69	Andare a farsi benedire	To go get blessed	To fall apart / get ruined
70	Fare due chiacchiere	To make two chats	To have a small talk
71	Fare spallucce	To make little shoulders	To shrug it off

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72	Essere tutto fumo e niente arrosto	To be all smoke and no roast	To be all talk, no substance
73	Non avere né capo né coda	To have neither head nor tail	To make no sense
74	Prendere per il naso	To take by the nose	To fool someone
75	Rompere il ghiaccio	To break the ice	To start conversation
76	Essere una mosca bianca	To be a white fly	To be very rare
77	Saltare in aria	To jump in the air	To explode (literally or emotionally)
78	Essere una cima	To be a peak	To be very smart
79	Tenere a bada	To hold at bay	To control, to keep calm
80	Non vedere l'ora	Not see the hour	Can't wait
81	Avere la testa dura	To have a hard head	To be stubborn
82	Fare fiasco	To make a flask	To flop, to fail
83	Essere giù di corda	To be down of rope	To feel low, depressed
84	Mangiare la foglia	To eat the leaf	To get the hint
85	Fare finta di niente	To pretend nothing	To ignore / play it cool
86	Non ci piove	It doesn't rain on it	No doubt about it
87	Fare una figuraccia	To make a bad little figure	To embarrass yourself
88	Essere l'ultima ruota del carro	To be the last wheel of the cart	To be insignificant
89	Fare orecchie da	To make merchant's ears	To ignore intentionally

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	mercante		
90	Essere un cane senza padrone	To be a dog without master	To be lost / without guidance
91	Cercare rogne	To look for scabs	To look for trouble
92	Non volere rogne	To not want scabs	To not want trouble
93	Fare la gatta morta	To play the dead cat	To pretend innocence (often seduction)\
94	Essere un'oca giuliva	To be a silly goose	To be naive / silly
95	Far venire i nervi	To bring the nerves	To make someone angry
96	Prendere fischi per fiaschi	To take whistles for flasks	To misunderstand completely
97	Dare i numeri	To give numbers	To go crazy
98	Stare con le mani in mano	To stay with hands in hands	To do nothing
99	Farsela sotto dal ridere	To do it under yourself from laughing	To laugh like crazy
100	Piantare in asso	To plant in ace	To abandon someone suddenly