

## The Verb “Piacere” (To Like) And Verbs Like “Piacere” “PIACERE” E VERBI COME “PIACERE”

**Piacere** (to like) has a special construction in Italian.  
In the sentences below, compare the Italian syntax and word order with the English.

**Mi** piace il gelato.                      *I like ice cream.*

In the Italian sentence, **il gelato** is the subject of the verb **piacere** and **mi** is the indirect object of **piacere**.

Therefore, the literal translation of the above Italian sentence is:

*To me [indirect object] is pleasing [verb] ice cream [subject].*

**Piacere** is mainly used in the third person singular (**piace**) and plural (**piacciono**).  
Study these examples:

<b>Mi piacciono</b> i ravioli.	<i>I like ravioli.</i>
<b>Ti piace</b> la birra italiana?	<i>Do you like Italian beer?</i>
<b>Le piacciono</b> i film italiani.	<i>She likes Italian films.</i>
Non <b>gli piace</b> l'arte contemporanea.	<i>He doesn't like [or They don't like] contemporary art.</i>
Non <b>ci piace</b> andare in montagna.	<i>We don't like to go to the mountains.</i>
Non <b>vi piacciono</b> gli spinaci.	<i>You [pl.] don't like spinach.</i>
Non <b>piacciono loro</b> i viaggi organizzati. <i>(written language)</i>	<i>They do not like organized trips.</i>
Non <b>gli piacciono</b> i viaggi organizzati. <i>(spoken language)</i>	<i>[same]</i>

### Piacere al passato prossimo

**Piacere** has an irregular past participle: **piaciuto**.

**Piacere** takes **essere** in **passato prossimo**, therefore the past participle must agree with the subject. Remember that the subject is the thing or person that is liked.  
Below are the same sentences as in the above chart, but in **passato prossimo**.

<b>Mi sono piaciuti</b> i ravioli.	<i>I liked ravioli.</i>
<b>Ti è piaciuta</b> la birra italiana?	<i>Did you like Italian beer?</i>
<b>Le sono piaciuti</b> i film italiani.	<i>She liked Italian films.</i>
Non <b>gli è piaciuta</b> l'arte contemporanea.	<i>He [or They] didn't like contemporary art.</i>
Non <b>ci è piaciuto</b> andare in montagna.	<i>We didn't like to go to the mountains.</i>
Non <b>vi sono piaciuti</b> gli spinaci.	<i>You [pl.] didn't like spinach.</i>
Non <b>sono piaciuti loro</b> i viaggi organizzati. <i>(written language)</i>	<i>They did not like organized trips.</i>
Non <b>gli sono piaciuti</b> i viaggi organizzati. <i>(spoken language)</i>	

### UNIT 7.3 Grammatica

The following common verbs in Italian are formed like **piacere**.

**mancare** (to miss)

**Mi manca la mia famiglia.** (lit: *To me is missing my family, i.e I miss my family.*)

**Mi mancano i miei amici.** (lit: *To me are missing my friends, i.e I miss my friends.*)

**occorrere** (to need)

**Gli occorre più tempo.** (lit: *To him is needed more time, i.e He needs more time.*)

**Gli occorrono cento euro.** (lit: *To him are needed one hundred euros, i.e He needs one hundred euros.*)

**servire** (to need)

**Ci serve la macchina.** (lit: *To us is needed the car, i.e We need the car.*)

**Ci servono due computer.** (lit: *To us are needed two computers, i.e We need two computers.*)

**dispiacere** (to be sorry, to feel sorry [for someone, something])

**Mi dispiace.** (lit: *It is displeasing to me., i.e I am sorry or I feel bad.*)

**Ti dispiace** (lit: *It is displeasing to you. (s.), i.e You (s.) are sorry or You (s.) feel bad.*)

**Gli dispiace** (lit: *It is displeasing to him., i.e He is sorry or He feels bad.*)

**Le dispiace** (lit: *It is displeasing to her., i.e She is sorry or She feels bad.*)

**Ci dispiace** (lit: *It is displeasing to us., i.e We are sorry or We feel bad.*)

**Vi dispiace** (lit: *It is displeasing to you. (pl.), i.e You (pl.) are sorry or You (pl.) feel bad.*)

**Gli dispiace** (lit: *It is displeasing to them., i.e They are sorry or They feel bad. [coll.]*)

**Dispiace loro** (lit: *It is displeasing to them., i.e They are sorry or They feel bad. [written]*)

The **passato prossimo** of **dispiacere** takes the auxiliary **essere**, just like **piacere**.

Below are the above sentences in **passato prossimo**:

**Mi è dispiaciuto.** (lit: *It was displeasing to me., i.e I was sorry or I felt bad.*)

**Ti è dispiaciuto** (lit: *It was displeasing to you. (s.), i.e You (s.) were sorry or You (s.) felt bad.*)

**Gli è dispiaciuto** (lit: *It was displeasing to him., i.e He was sorry or He felt bad.*)

**Le è dispiaciuto** (lit: *It was displeasing to her., i.e She was sorry or She felt bad.*)

**Ci è dispiaciuto** (lit: *It was displeasing to us., i.e We were sorry or We felt bad.*)

**Vi è dispiaciuto** (lit: *It was displeasing to you. (pl.), i.e You (pl.) were sorry or You (pl.) felt bad.*)

**Gli è dispiaciuto** (lit: *It was displeasing to them., i.e They were sorry or They felt bad. [coll.]*)

**È dispiaciuto loro** (lit: *It was displeasing to them., i.e They were sorry or They felt bad. [written]*)

### UNIT 7.3 Grammatica

**sembrare** (to seem)

**parere**, p.p. **parso** (to seem, to appear)

**Mi è sembrato annoiato.** (He seemed bored to me, i.e. He looked bored.)

**Il viaggio ci è sembrato lungo.** (The trip seemed long to us, i.e. We thought the trip was long.)

**Non ci sembrava che ti piacesse la cena!** (It seemed to us that you didn't like the dinner, i.e. We had the impression you didn't like the dinner.)

**Le è parso strano che lui fosse in ritardo.** (It seemed strange to her that he was late. i.e. She thought it was strange that he was late.)

**Vi pareva possibile?!** (Did it seem possible to you? i.e. Did you [pl.] think it was possible?)

### More verbs and expressions that require the indirect object in Italian

Below is a brief discussion of other common verbs and idiomatic expressions that require the indirect object in Italian:

**\*\* fare bene a qualcuno** (to be good, to be healthy for someone)

**\*\* fare male a qualcuno** (to be bad, to be unhealthy for someone, to make someone feel sick)

Correre **ti fa** sicuramente **bene**. (Running is certainly good for you, i.e. It is healthy.)

Fumare **fa male** a tutti! (Smoking is bad for everyone, i.e. It is unhealthy.)

**Non le fa bene** mangiare tutti quei dolci. (It's not good for her to eat all those sweets, i.e. It is unhealthy.)

Ho mangiato del pesce fritto e **mi ha fatto male**. (I ate some fried fish and it made me feel sick.)

**\*\* volere bene a qualcuno** (to love someone, to care for someone)

Lui **le vuole molto bene**. (He loves her very much.)

Lei **gli ha voluto bene** in passato, ma ora tutto è finito. (She loved him in the past but now everything is over.)

Notice that also **amare** means "to love", but **amare** is almost exclusively used in romantic relationships. **Volere bene** is generally used among friends and family member (such as parents and children, siblings, etc.)

### UNIT 7.3 Grammatica

The two sentences below have exactly the same translation in English, but the sentence with **amare** implies an emotional feeling only found in romantic relationships.

**Ti voglio bene! Ti amo!** (*I love you!*)

**\*\* assomigliare / somigliare a qualcuno** (*to resemble someone, to look like someone*)

Notice that **assomigliare** (and its synonym **somigliare**) take the indirect object pronoun:

Io **assomiglio a** mio padre ma non a mia madre. (*I resemble my father but I don't resemble my mother.*)

Io **gli somiglio**, ma non **le somiglio**. (*I resemble him, but I don't resemble her.*)