

How do you say "*Really*" in Italian?

VERAMENTE means "*really*" in statements...

Whenever "**REALLY**" can be replaced with "**VERY**" or "**TRULY**" in statements, then in Italian we tend to use the words **VERAMENTE**.

▷ **SOME EXAMPLES:**

Mi piace veramente tanto

I like it (really) a lot! - I truly like it a lot!

Andrea è veramente innamorato di Sara

Andrea is really in love with Sara - Andrea is truly in love with Sara

▷ **BUT**

When **VERAMENTE** starts a sentence though, it usually has a completely different meaning.

- ▷ **ACTUALLY**
- ▷ **AS A MATTER OF FACT**
- ▷ **TRUTH BE TOLD**
- ▷ **TO BE HONEST**

or any other similar expressions, **depending on the mood** you are trying to confer in English!

ASK MANU ITALIANO

You basically want to use **VERAMENTE** any time you would say "actually" / "as a matter of fact" etc. in English!

▷ **SOME EXAMPLES:**

Veramente io non ho mai detto quello!

Actually, I've never said that!

Mi ami? - Veramente no!

Do you love me? - Actually, I don't.

In all these cases, a synonym for **VERAMENTE** would be the expression **A DIRE IL VERO**.

So what do I say when I'm surprise? (Really???)

In Italian it is very **rare** to use **VERAMENTE** when in English we would say **REALLY** with a sense of shock/surprise. It's possible in some circumstances, but **in most cases you will hear** Italians say:

- ▷ **DAVVERO?**
- ▷ **MA DAI!**
- ▷ **NON MI DIRE!**

Please note that **NON MI DIRE** can only be used when addressing **one person**. It doesn't work when addressing two or more people.

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▷ SOME EXAMPLES:

Ho comprato una Ferrari! - Non mi dire!!! (or DAVVERO?) (or MA DAI!)

I bought a Ferrari! - Really? (OR You're kidding?) (OR For real?)

Domani mi sposo - Davvero?

I'm getting married tomorrow! - Really?

Depending on the situation, an expression might be more appropriate than another.

DAVVERO is the most suitable to express pure surprise.

NON MI DIRE and **MA DAI** also work, but **NON MI DIRE** has the literal meaning of "DON'T TELL ME" and **MA DAI** of "COME ON", so use them accordingly.

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▷ EXERCISE

Translate the first group of sentences into Italian and the second group into English.

1. I am really tired

2. Italy is really pretty

3. Actually, I can't come to the party tonight...

4. (a) I'm going to Italy for Christmas! (b) Really?

5. Stefano is truly a good person

6. Veramente... non ho capito molto bene quello che hai detto!

7. Questo gelato è veramente buono

8. Davvero? Ti sposi domani?



9. Il nuovo album di Elisa è davvero molto bello



10. Il nuovo album di Elisa è veramente bello



▷ ANSWERS

Here are some possible translations for the exercises.

1. Sono veramente stanco
2. L'Italia è veramente bella
3. Veramente, non posso venire alla festa...
4. (a) Vado in Italia per Natale! (b) Davvero?
5. Stefano è veramente una brava persona
6. Actually, I didn't quite understand what you said!
7. This ice cream is really good
8. Really? You're getting married tomorrow?
9. Elisa's new album is really good
10. Elisa's new album is really good

▷ YOUR NOTES