Words on the Move

The game: comment with your voice. Pick one or more words, read them out loud and leave a voice comment under the article. Italians correct the Italian; Japanese, Koreans and Chinese correct their own languages. Getting it wrong is the fun part: you can delete and try again.

FROM ITALIA

Un cappuccino, per favore!
oon kahp-pooch-CHEE-noh pehr fah-VOH-reh
カプチーノをください *kapuchīno o kudasai* · 카푸치노 주세요 *kapuchino juseyo* · 请给我一杯卡布奇诺 *qǐng gěi wǒ yì bēi kǎbùqínuò*

espresso
eh-SPREHS-soh
エスプレッソ *esupuresso* · 에스프레소 *eseupeureso* · 意式浓缩咖啡 *yìshì nóngsuō kāfēi*

un panino, due panini
oon pah-NEE-noh dweh pah-NEE-nee
パニーニ *panīni* · 파니니 *panini* · 帕尼尼 *pànínì*

pizza
PEETS-tsah
ピッツァ *pittsa* · 피자 *pija* · 披萨 *pīsà*

Ciao!
CHAH-oh
チャオ！ *chao!* · 안녕! *annyeong!* · 你好！ *nǐ hǎo!*
like 안녕, for hello and goodbye

Bravo!
BRAH-voh
ブラボー！ *burabō!* · 브라보! *beurabo!* · 好！ *hǎo!*

Tutte le strade portano a Roma
TOOT-teh leh STRAH-deh POHR-tah-noh ah ROH-mah
すべての道はローマに通ず *subete no michi wa Rōma ni tsūzu* · 모든 길은 로마로 통한다 *modeun gireun Romaro tonghanda* · 条条大路通罗马 *tiáotiáo dàlù tōng Luómǎ*

latte
LAHT-teh
ラテ *rate* · 라떼 *ratte* · 拿铁 *nátiě*
in Italia, just a glass of milk

tiramisù
tee-rah-mee-SOO
ティラミス *tiramisu* · 티라미수 *tiramisu* · 提拉米苏 *tílāmǐsū*

paparazzi
pah-pah-RAHTS-tsee
パパラッチ *paparatchi* · 파파라치 *paparachi* · 狗仔队 *gǒuzǎiduì*

Ghibli
GEE-blee
ジブリ *jiburi* · 지브리 *jibeuri* · 吉卜力 *jíbǔlì*

Mamma mia!
MAHM-mah MEE-ah
マンマ・ミーア！ *manma mīa!* · 맘마미아! *mammamia!* · 妈妈咪呀！ *māma mīya!*

gelato
jeh-LAH-toh
ジェラート *jerāto* · 젤라또 *jellatto* · 意式冰淇淋 *yìshì bīngqílín*

Roma non fu fatta in un giorno
ROH-mah nohn foo FAHT-tah een oon JOHR-noh
ローマは一日にして成らず *Rōma wa ichinichi ni shite narazu* · 로마는 하루아침에 이루어지지 않았다 *Romaneun haruachime irueojiji anatda* · 罗马不是一天建成的 *Luómǎ bú shì yì tiān jiànchéng de*

FROM JAPAN

カラオケ
karaoke
노래방 *noraebang* · 卡拉OK *kǎlā OK*

絵文字
emoji
이모지 *imoji* · 绘文字 *huìwénzì*

豆腐
tōfu
tofu · 두부 *dubu* · 豆腐 *dòufu*

笑
warai
ahahah · ㅋㅋㅋ *keukeukeu* · 哈哈哈 *hāhāhā*
online, Japanese write www

漫画
manga
만화 *manhwa* · 漫画 *mànhuà*

可愛い
kawaii
귀여워 *gwiyeowo* · 卡哇伊 *kǎwāyī*
cute

柔道
jūdō
judo · 유도 *yudo* · 柔道 *róudào*

FROM KOREA

한류
hallyu

韓流 *hanryū* · 韩流 *hánliú*

the Korean wave

오빠
oppa

オッパ *oppa* · 欧巴 *ōubā*

“big brother”, said by a girl

셀카
selka

selfie · 自撮り *jidori* · 自拍 *zìpāi*

태권도
taegwondo

taekwondo · テコンドー *tekondō* · 跆拳道 *táiquándào*

이태리타월
itaeri tawol

あかすりタオル *akasuri taoru* · 搓澡巾 *cuōzǎojīn*

the “Italia” towel

화이팅!
hwaiting!

Forza! *FOHR-tsah* · 頑張れ！ *ganbare!* · 加油！ *jiāyóu!*

웹툰
weptun

webtoon · ウェブトゥーン *webutūn* · 条漫 *tiáomàn*

FROM CHINA

茶
chá

tè *teh* · お茶 *ocha* · 차 *cha*

点心
diǎnxīn

dim sum · 点心 *tenshin* · 점심 *jeomsim*

in Korean it means “lunch”

道
dào

Tao · 道 *dō* · 도 *do*

“the way”: as in judō and taekwondo

风水
fēngshuǐ

feng shui · 風水 *fūsui* · 풍수 *pungsu*

干杯!
gānbēi!

Cin cin! *cheen cheen* · 乾杯！ *kanpai!* · 건배! *geonbae!*

功夫
gōngfu

kung fu · カンフー *kanfū* · 쿵후 *kunghu*

太极
tàijí

tai chi · 太極 *taikyoku* · 태극 *taegeuk*

麻将
májiàng

mahjong · 麻雀 *mājan* · 마작 *majak*

HOW TO READ THE FOREIGN WORDS

Japanese

- (Hepburn system): consonants as in English, vowels short and clear as in Italian. A line over a vowel (ā, ū, ō) means it is long: hold it twice as long. A u between two consonants is barely heard.

Korean

- (Revised Romanization, official in Korea since 2000): eo is an open “aw”, eu is an “oo” said with spread lips, ae is like the “e” in “bed”; kk, tt, pp, ss, jj are tense consonants: strong, with no puff of air.

Chinese

- (pinyin, China’s official system): x is close to “sh”, q to “ch” with a puff of air, j to a light “j”; zh, ch, sh are said with the tongue curled back; z sounds like “dz”, c like “ts” with a puff of air. The marks over the vowels are the **tones**: in Chinese the same syllable changes meaning with the melody of the voice. ā high and level, á rising, ǎ falling then rising, à sharply falling.