I sent this to a student who didn’t pass the first esonero. Perhaps it’s helpful also to other “weak” students and to students who could not come to class during the first semester like Dass students. “Stronger” students can tell me if the explanations make sense.

You need to review the present continuous and present simple (Grammar Bank 1A). To say *che fai?* we don't say "~~What you do~~" or "~~what you doing~~?" but "what are you doing?"

You need to review the use of the present simple (Grammar Bank 1A). To say *oggi non gioco a tennis* we don't say "~~today I don't play tennis~~." We can say "today I'm not going to study tennis." The present simple is used for what is always true: "I never play tennis."

You need to review the use of the past perfect (Grammar Bank 5A) . To say *avevo mangiato quando mi hai chiamato* we don't say "~~I ate when you called~~" but "I had eaten when you called."

You need to review the present perfect (Grammar Bank 2A and 2B) and, again, the present simple . To ask *da quanto tempo vivi a Roma* we don't say "~~how long do you study in Rome?~~ but "how long have you lived in Rome?" or "How long have you been studying French?"

You need to review the use of articles (Grammar Bank 3B). To say "*amo i libri*" we don't say "~~I love the books~~" but "I love books."

You need to review the future tense (Grammar Bank 1B). To say something you decide at that moment (instant decision)  like *ti aiuto io* we don't say "~~I'm going to help you~~"  but "I'll help you". "I'll help you" is the right answer to the statement "I need help."

You need to review what verbs are followed by the infinitive and what verbs are followed by  the gerund. Phrasal verbs are followed by gerunds (see Grammar bank unit 8A). But  we discussed the phrasal verb "look forward to" in class and repeated that it is followed by the gerund),

You need to review how the past simple is formed and study irregular verbs (p. 165). We don't say "when did you ~~saw~~ your mother?" but "when did you see your mother?"

You need to review the present perfect and the past simple (Grammar Bank 5A). If you are talking about something that is finished, we say "I played tennis for four years."  If you are talking about something that is still true, we say "I have played tennis for four years."

If an identical subject is followed by two verbs united by *and*  you don't need to repeat the subject: "I went to the United States and saw my parents" is better than "I went to the United States and I saw my parents."

You need to review irregular  comparatives and superlatives (Grammar Bank 3A)

Double negatives in English mean something positive. (Like in math : -3x-6 is 18). "I didn't read no books yesterday" means I read at least one book. (Obviously it's better to say "I read a book yesterday" or "I read two books yesterday." To say *non ho letto nessun libro ieri* we say "I didn't read any books yesterday."

Here are some common expressions:

You are *either* right *or* wrong

You are *neither* right *nor* wrong

You are *both* right *and* wrong,

Your answer is the *same as* mine.

Your answer is *different from* mine.

Stay safe and healthy and stay at home and study,

Edward Lynch