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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 5
Stealing food is not a crime, says Italian court

7th May, 2016

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-5.html

Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

An Italian court of appeal has said food theft because of hunger is not illegal. The Supreme Court of Cassation reversed the conviction of a homeless man, Roman Ostriakov, who was given six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage worth $4.50. He was also fined $115. His lawyers appealed for a reduction in that fine and got the whole conviction quashed. The court said taking the food, "does not constitute a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. It ruled that stealing small amounts of food because of hunger is not a crime.

Many people hope this case will highlight the poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe it may mean hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will not be convicted. A criminal lawyer said the case, "is a new principle", and it might lead to more, similar decisions when theft is "linked to poverty situations". The court said: "People should not be punished if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food in order to meet the basic requirement of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "In a civilised country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."

PHRASE MATCHING

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1.	An Italian court of	a.	a crime
2.	reversed the conviction of	b.	quashed
3.	cheese and a sausage	c.	a homeless man
4.	He was also fined	d.	appeal
5.	got the whole conviction	e.	worth $4.50
6.	taking the food does not constitute	f.	of food
7.	out of	g.	$115
8.	stealing small amounts	h.	desperation

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1.	this case will highlight	a.	shoplifting
2.	arrested for	b.	decisions
3.	A criminal	c.	to die of hunger
4.	it might lead to more, similar	d.	requirement
5.	People should not be	e.	the poverty
6.	meet the basic	f.	country
7.	In a civilised	g.	punished
8.	no one should be allowed	h.	lawyer

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

An Italian court of (1) _____ food theft because of hunger is not illegal. The Supreme Court of Cassation reversed (2) _____ a homeless man, Roman Ostriakov, who was given six months in jail (3) _____ and a sausage worth $4.50. He was also fined $115. His lawyers appealed for (4) _____ that fine and got the whole conviction quashed. The court said taking the food, "does not (5) _____" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. It ruled that stealing small amounts of food because (6) _____ a crime.

Many people (7) _____ will highlight the poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe it may mean hungry people (8) _____ for shoplifting will not be convicted. A criminal lawyer said the case, "is a new principle", and it (9) _____ more, similar decisions when theft is "linked to (10) _____". The court said: "People should not be punished if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food (11) _____ the basic requirement of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "In a civilised country, no one should (12) _____ die of hunger."

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

AnItaliancourtofappealhassaidfoodtheftbecauseofhungerisnotillegal.TheSupremeCourtofCassationreversedtheconvictionofahomelessman,RomanOstriakov,whowasgivensixmonthsinjailforstealingcheeseandasausageworth$4.50.Hewasalsofined$115.Hislawyersappealedforareductioninthatfineandgotthewholeconvictionquashed.Thecourtsaidtakingthefood,"doesnotconstituteacrime"becausehestoleasmallamountoffoodoutofdesperation.Itruledthatstealingsmallamountsoffoodbecauseofhungerisnotacrime.ManypeoplehopethiscasewillhighlightthepovertyandhomelessnessinItaly.Theyalsobelieveitmaymeanhungrypeoplewhoarearrestedforshopliftingwillnotbeconvicted.Acriminallawyersaidthecase,"isanewprinciple",anditmightleadtomore,similardecisionswhentheftis"linkedtopovertysituations".Thecourtsaid:"Peopleshouldnotbepunishedif,forcedbyneed,theystealsmallquantitiesoffoodinordertomeetthebasicrequirementoffeedingthemselves."Italy'sLaStampanewspapersaid:"Inacivilisedcountry,nooneshouldbeallowedtodieofhunger."

STEALING FOOD SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about stealing food in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

Write about **poverty** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

_____

_____

_____

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