

## Test 7

The use by Italian prosecutors of so-called penitent criminals, or pentiti, as informants to catch other organized crime figures has been an outstanding success: turncoats have done more damage to the Mafia in the past few years than the police achieved in decades. But recently the government's witness protection system - under which criminals have been exchanging information and evidence for liberty, bodyguards and reduced sentences since 1992 - has come in for sharp criticism. Some informers are enjoying the comfort of police protection while living the high life on the money from their illegal activities.

Felice "Angel Face" Maniero used to run a group of bandits in the Veneto region of northern Italy. In 1993, he was sentenced (condannato) to 33 years in jail for robbery and drug trafficking. Maniero, now 42, looked set to emerge from prison an old man. Not so. In December 1994, Maniero started singing to police. His information led to the arrest of 40 people last year, and another 100 so far this year, for crimes ranging from drug dealing to homicide. A few months after he began talking, Maniero was released from jail and given police protection. But instead of living quietly in hiding, he has been ostentatiously enjoying his unexpected freedom. He bought his daughter a Porsche, stayed at Milan's luxurious Hotel Principe di Savoia, and has been seen drinking coffee in outdoor cafes in the company of tall, thin blondes. In August embarrassed prosecutors withdrew Maniero's bodyguards. "It's not like I'm a priest who has to give a good example," Maniero complained to the Milan daily, Il Giornale. "The law doesn't prohibit me from eating lobster and drinking champagne. Or maybe there's a menu for pentiti which doesn't get people angry?" Early next year he will be back in court, this time on murder charges.

Catania investigating magistrate, Felice Lima, favours sentence reductions and better conditions for pentiti facing life sentences' but not freedom. "It seems excessive that the authors of massacres and numerous ferocious crimes are set free two or three months after their capture," says Lima. Sentiments which most Italians would drink to, and which would make Angel Face choke on his lobster and champagne.

PART 1

**Scegliere la risposta più adatta (barrare la risposta considerate corretta)**

1. a) Most pentiti are genuinely repentant of their crimes.  
b) Pentiti are the most effective way of combating organized crime.  
c) The police have to protect pentiti for a period of 10 years.
  
2. a) Pentiti must give back their profits from organized crime before they can have police protection.  
b) The Italian government has made use of pentiti for more than a decade.  
c) Some pentiti are leading lives of luxury under police protection.
  
3. a) Maniero used to go jogging with a gang of criminals in northern Italy.  
b) The Italian judiciary found Maniero guilty of drug trafficking.  
c) Maniero has a pleasant singing voice.
  
4. a) Maniero has a taste for expensive living.  
b) Maniero recruited tall, slim blondes for drug dealing operations.  
c) Maniero now lives in reclusion, but in the past he went to expensive bars and restaurants.
  
5. a) Maniero does not like priests because they set a good example.  
b) The Italian judiciary has removed Maniero's police escort.  
c) The Italian public is angry that there is not a special menu for pentiti.
  
6. a) Lima wants the Italian state to stop giving preferential treatment to pentiti.  
b) Lima wants pentiti to remain in custody for much longer than two or three months.  
c) Most Italians become sentimental when they drink champagne.

Trovare, nel testo, il sinonimo delle parole sottolineate (es. **jail - riga 8 = prison - riga 9**)

7. "turncoats" .....
8. "liberty" .....
9. "police protection" .....
10. "homicide" .....

## PART 2

A Riempire i vuoti inserendo i verbi fra parentesi nella forma appropriata

(a) Scegliere fra it **Simple Present** (es. talk/talks) e it **Present Continuous** (es. is/are talking)

1. The Prime Minister ..... (live) at 10 Downing Street.
2. .... (you/understand) computers?
3. Unemployment.....(still/rise), but inflation.....(fall).

(b) Scegliere fra it **Past Simple** (es. talked) e it **Past Continuous** (es. was /were talking)

5. The Olive Tree alliance ..... (win) the Italian elections in 1996.
- 6-8. I.....(not/phone) you last night because I .....(think) you.....(sleep).

(c) Scegliere fra i due tempi futuri: **will e going to**

9. My parents ..... (spend) Christmas with friends.
10. Be careful! That vase.....(fall)!
11. If you see John ..... (you/ask) him to phone me?

(d) Scegliere fra i verbi diffettivi: **would/could/must/shall/should**

12. The government .....like to create more jobs.
13. ....I borrow your pen for a moment?
- 14-15. The Conservatives have no choice: they ..... call a general election next year and the Labour Party ..... win, according to the opinion polls.

B. Completare le seguenti frasi scegliendo fra **it/they/there** con la forma appropriate del verbo **"to be"**. (es. There is an old castle on the hill. It is 500 years old.)

16. "I'm going shopping. ....anything you want?"
- 17-18. ".....several things, but .....difficult to find, so don't worry."
- 19-20. "What time..... ?" " .....nearly 10 o'clock."

C. Completare le seguenti frasi scegliendo fra **some/much/many/a few**

21. I'd like ..... information about train times, please.
- 22-23. I may go away for ..... days at Christmas, but there isn't ..... time and I haven't got ..... money.

D. Inserire **a, an o the** se lo ritenete opportuno

- 24-25. Peter studies .....Sociology at .....university.
26. No wonder Janet is so thin! She never eats ..... lunch!

E Completare le frasi inserendo la **preposizione giusta**.

- 27-28. I saw the advertisement .....the newspaper, not..... television.
- 29-30. Instead of staying .....home this Christmas, we're going .....America.

**PROVA DI CONOSCENZA DELLA LINGUA INGLESE N. 7**  
**CHIAVE**

***PART 1***

1B; 2C; 3B; 4A; 5B; 6B; 7 pentiti/informers/informants/penitent criminals;  
8 freedom; 9 bodyguards; 10 murder.

***PART 2***

- 1 lives
- 2 do you understand
- 3 is still rising
- 4 is falling
- 5 won
- 6 did not phone
- 7 thought
- 8 were sleeping
- 9 are going to spend
- 10 is going to fall
- 11 will you ask
- 12 would
- 13 could
- 14 must
- 15 should/could
- 16 is there
- 17 there are
- 18 they are
- 19 is it
- 20 it is
- 21 some
- 22 a few/ some
- 23 much ...much
- 24 -
- 25 -/the
- 26 -
- 27 in
- 28 on
- 29 at/-
- 30 to