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Level 4

Stealing food is not a crime, says Italian court

7th May, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-4.html>

An Italian court has said stealing food because of hunger is not illegal. The court reversed the conviction of a homeless man who was given six months in jail and a \$115 fine for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. His lawyers appealed and got the whole conviction changed. The court said taking such a small amount of food was not a crime because the man stole such a small amount of food out of desperation.

People hope this case will highlight the poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also hope hungry people arrested for shoplifting will not be put in prison. A lawyer said the case might lead to more, similar decisions when theft is "linked to poverty situations". The court said: "People should not be punished if...they steal small quantities of food in order to...feed themselves." An Italian newspaper said: "In a civilised country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."

Sources: <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2016/0504/Italian-court-rules-stealing-food-isn-t-a-crime-if-you-really-need-it>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36190557>
<http://www.thelocal.it/20160503/if-italys-poor-and-hungry-steal-food-its-not-a-crime-top-court>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The court reversed | a. appealed |
| 2. given six months | b. of food |
| 3. cheese and a sausage | c. the conviction |
| 4. His lawyers | d. desperation |
| 5. got the whole conviction | e. worth \$4.50 |
| 6. taking such a small amount of food | f. in jail |
| 7. such a small amount | g. was not a crime |
| 8. out of | h. changed |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. People hope this case will highlight | a. for shoplifting |
| 2. hungry people arrested | b. country |
| 3. be put | c. decisions |
| 4. might lead to more, similar | d. of hunger |
| 5. People should not be | e. the poverty |
| 6. in order to | f. punished |
| 7. a civilised | g. in prison |
| 8. be allowed to die | h. feed themselves |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-4.html>

An Italian court (1) _____ because of hunger is not illegal. The court reversed (2) _____ a homeless man who (3) _____ months in jail and a \$115 fine for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. His lawyers (4) _____ the whole conviction changed. The court said taking (5) _____ amount of food was not a crime because the man stole such a small amount of food (6) _____.

People hope this case (7) _____ poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also hope hungry people arrested for shoplifting (8) _____ in prison. A lawyer said the case might lead to more, (9) _____ when theft is "linked to poverty situations". The court said: "People should not be punished if... (10) _____ quantities of food in order to... (11) _____." An Italian newspaper said: "In a civilised country, no one should (12) _____ of hunger."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-4.html>

An Italian court has said stealing food because of hunger is not illegal. The court reversed the conviction of a homeless man who was given six months in jail and a \$115 fine for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. His lawyers appealed and got the whole conviction changed. The court said taking such a small amount of food was not a crime because the man stole such a small amount of food out of desperation. People hope this case will highlight the poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also hope hungry people arrested for shoplifting will not be put in prison. A lawyer said the case might lead to more, similar decisions when the theft is "linked to poverty situations". The court said: "People should not be punished if... they steal small quantities of food in order to... feed themselves." An Italian newspaper said: "In a civilised country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."

STEALING FOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft-4.html>

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) _____

