

Italy's government may punish the use of English

6th April 2023



Italy's ruling party may introduce a new law to stop people using English words in Italian. People could get fined for using English and other non-Italian words in official communications. The idea is from

government member Fabio Rampelli. He is worried about the growing number of English words in Italian. He called it "Anglomania". He is unhappy with the word "dispenser". He wrote: "We continue our battle for the use of Italian instead of English. We can't understand why we say 'dispenser'." Mr Rampelli said English is damaging the Italian language. He wants people to get a fine if they use English words. The fines could be between €5,000 and €100,000 (\$5,500 and \$110,000).

English has been increasing around the world for over a century. The Internet and social media have increased its use. Most languages now use English words. Many people are concerned that English is harming their native language. However, not all Italians agree with having fines for the use of English. A top Italian linguistics society, the Accademia della Crusca, said it totally disagreed with Mr Rampelli's idea. Other people support the fines. They are worried about the growing number of English words in Italian. They say that since the year 2000, the number of English words in use in the Italian language has increased by an amazing 773 per cent. There are no signs that this will stop.

Sources: euronews.com / thelocal.it / reuters.com

Writing

The world would be better if there was only one language. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

ruling party / law / Italian / official / Anglomania / dispenser / language / fine / words / English / century / the Internet / social media / native language / society / signs

True / False

- 1) English is the only language that Italians might be fined for using. T / F
- 2) A government member said there was a problem of 'Anglomania'. T / F
- 3) The Italian government member is unhappy Italians say "dispenser". T / F
- 4) Italians could be fined up to €110,000 if they use English words. T / F
- 5) The Internet has been spreading English globally for over a century. T / F
- 6) The article says all languages use English words. T / F
- 7) All Italians agree with the fines for using English words. T / F
- 8) English in Italian has risen by 773% since the year 2000. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. ruling | a. penalty |
| 2. communications | b. fight |
| 3. battle | c. completely |
| 4. damaging | d. worried |
| 5. fine | e. messages |
| 6. increasing | f. end |
| 7. concerned | g. governing |
| 8. totally | h. rising |
| 9. amazing | i. harming |
| 10. stop | j. unbelievable |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of English?
- b) How important is English in your life?
- c) How has English changed your language?
- d) Do you worry that English is harming your language?
- e) Why is English the world's top language?
- f) Should people in Italy be fined for using English words?
- g) What are your favourite and least favourite English words?
- h) What do you think 'Anglomania' is?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Italy's ruling party may introduce | a. their native language |
| 2. get fined for using English and other | b. Italian language |
| 3. words in official | c. that this will stop |
| 4. our battle for the use of Italian | d. year 2000 |
| 5. English is damaging the | e. non-Italian words |
| 6. concerned that English is harming | f. an amazing 773 per cent |
| 7. it totally disagreed | g. instead of English |
| 8. since the | h. a new law |
| 9. increased by | i. with Mr Rampelli's idea |
| 10. There are no signs | j. communications |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How often do you read English websites?
- How often do you use English on social media?
- How important is your language around the world?
- Should all governments protect their language?
- What's the second most important language in the world?
- How will English help you in your life?
- What questions would you like to ask the Italian government?

Spelling

- Italy's uInigr party
- odcturnie a new law
- in ifoiclaf communications
- ernvntegom member
- the use of Italian dnisaet of English
- English is dginmaga the Italian language
- for over a teyurnc
- English is harming their evtani language
- A top Italian linguistics eiysoct
- it totally egaidrde
- people oputsrp the fines
- increased by an zaangim 773 per cent

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. b	4. i	5. a
6. h	7. d	8. c	9. j	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Spanish

You think Spanish is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their language. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Arabic, Chinese or French.

Role B – Arabic

You think Arabic is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their language. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Spanish, Chinese or French.

Role C – Chinese

You think Chinese is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their language. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Arabic, Spanish or French.

Role D – French

You think French is the most important language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their language. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Arabic, Chinese or Spanish.

Speaking – Languages

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful languages at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| • English | • French |
| • Spanish | • Chinese |
| • German | • Esperanto |
| • Arabic | • Hindi |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	F	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.