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Level 6

Stealing food is not a crime, says Italian court

7th May, 2016

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

An Italian court has ruled that food theft brought about by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court of appeal, the Supreme Court of Cassation, threw out the conviction of a homeless Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov, who was sentenced to six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also fined \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers initially appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole conviction was quashed. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not constitute a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal ruled that stealing small amounts of food to stave off hunger is not a crime.

Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will highlight the extent of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe the ruling may mean other hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will not be convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov case, "is a new principle, and it might lead to a more frequent application of the state of necessity linked to poverty situations". The court ruled in a statement that: "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: "The court's decision reminds us all that 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>

WARM-UPS

1. POVERTY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about poverty. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

court / hunger / illegal / homeless / cheese / trial / crime / desperation / highlight / shoplifting / lawyer / poverty / requirement / decision / civilized

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SHOPLIFTING: Students A **strongly** believe shoplifting for food when you are hungry is not a crime; Students B **strongly** believe it is. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. HUNGRY: How should these people / things help the hungry? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they can do	Why this might not happen
Government		
Charities		
Restaurants		
Supermarkets		
The public		
The rich		

5. COURT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "court". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. THEFT: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst instances of stealing at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- food when hungry
- neighbour's wi-fi
- illegal movie downloads
- not buying a train ticket
- clothes when cold
- medicine when ill
- flowers from a garden
- eating chips in a supermarket

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The court in the article is Italy's highest court of appeal. **T / F**
- b. The man who stole the food was from Milan. **T / F**
- c. The man was given a \$1,000 fine. **T / F**
- d. The court said it wasn't a crime because it was a small amount. **T / F**
- e. People hope the case will put a focus on homelessness in Italy. **T / F**
- f. A judge said no one would be arrested for stealing food. **T / F**
- g. A lawyer suggested more people might be let off for stealing food. **T / F**
- h. An Italian newspaper disagreed with the court's decision. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. ruled | a. degree |
| 2. threw out | b. amount to |
| 3. jail | c. quantity |
| 4. constitute | d. decreed |
| 5. desperation | e. simple |
| 6. extent | f. rule |
| 7. case | g. prison |
| 8. principle | h. rejected |
| 9. amounts | i. legal action |
| 10. basic | j. hopelessness |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Italy's highest | a. requirement |
| 2. sentenced to | b. desperation |
| 3. His lawyers initially | c. of poverty |
| 4. out of | d. court of appeal |
| 5. stave off | e. shoplifting |
| 6. highlight the extent | f. six months in jail |
| 7. arrested for | g. country |
| 8. People should not be | h. hunger |
| 9. in order to meet the basic | i. punished |
| 10. in a civilised | j. appealed |

GAP FILL

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

An Italian court has (1) _____ that food theft brought about by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court of (2) _____, the Supreme Court of Cassation, threw out the conviction of a (3) _____ Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov, who was sentenced to six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage (4) _____ \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also fined \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers (5) _____ appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole (6) _____ was quashed. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not (7) _____ a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal ruled that stealing small amounts of food to stave off (8) _____ is not a crime.

appeal
worth
constitute
ruled
hunger
initially
homeless
conviction

Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will highlight the (9) _____ of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe the (10) _____ may mean other hungry people who are arrested for (11) _____ will not be convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov case, "is a new (12) _____, and it might lead to a more frequent application of the state of (13) _____ linked to poverty situations". The court ruled in a statement that: "People should not be (14) _____ if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food in order to meet the (15) _____ requirement of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "The court's decision reminds us all that in a (16) _____ country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."

principle
ruling
basic
shoplifting
necessity
civilised
extent
punished

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) An Italian court has ruled that food theft brought about by hunger _____
 - a. is not illegally
 - b. is not a legal
 - c. is not illegal
 - d. is non illegal
- 2) sentenced to six months in jail for stealing cheese and a _____
 - a. sausage worthy \$4.50
 - b. sausage worth \$4.50
 - c. sausage worse \$4.50
 - d. sausages worth \$4.50
- 3) Mr Ostriakov was also fined \$115 by _____
 - a. the trials court
 - b. the trial court
 - c. the trialed court
 - d. the trail court
- 4) appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole _____
 - a. conviction was quashed
 - b. conviction was squashed
 - c. conviction was coshed
 - d. conviction was quacked
- 5) because he stole a small amount of food _____
 - a. out for desperation
 - b. in for desperation
 - c. outer desperation
 - d. out of desperation
- 6) Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will highlight the _____
 - a. intent of poverty
 - b. content of poverty
 - c. next tent of poverty
 - d. extent of poverty
- 7) other hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will _____
 - a. not be conviction
 - b. not be convicted
 - c. not been convicted
 - d. not be convicts
- 8) People should not be punished if, forced by need, they steal small _____
 - a. quantity of food
 - b. quantities of food
 - c. quantities off food
 - d. quantities of feed
- 9) in order to meet the basic requirement of _____
 - a. feed in themselves
 - b. feeding themselves
 - c. feeding in themselves
 - d. feeds in themselves
- 10) The court's decision reminds us all that in a civilised country, no one should be allowed _____
 - a. to die of hunger
 - b. to die for hunger
 - c. to die from hunger
 - d. to die off hunger

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

An Italian court has ruled that food (1) _____ by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court of appeal, the Supreme Court of Cassation, (2) _____ conviction of a homeless Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov, who was sentenced to six months (3) _____ cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also fined \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers (4) _____ for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole conviction was quashed. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not (5) _____" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal ruled that stealing (6) _____ food to stave off hunger is not a crime.

Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will (7) _____ of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also (8) _____ may mean other hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will not be convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov case, "is a new principle, and it might lead to a more (9) _____ of the state of necessity linked (10) _____". The court ruled in a statement that: "People should not be punished if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food in order to meet the (11) _____ of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "The court's decision reminds us all that in a civilised country, no one should be allowed (12) _____."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. How high was the court that made the decision?
2. Where was the man who stole the food from?
3. How much was the food he stole worth?
4. How much was the man initially fined by the court?
5. What did the court say the man stole the food out of?
6. What do people hope the case will highlight in Italy?
7. For which crime might people not be convicted?
8. What is Maurizio Bellacosa's job?
9. What was the basic requirement for people mentioned in the article?
10. What is the name of the newspaper that spoke about the case?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) How high was the court that made the decision?
 - a) quite high
 - b) about 27 metres
 - c) the second highest
 - d) the highest court of appeal
- 2) Where was the man who stole the food from?
 - a) Italy
 - b) Ukraine
 - c) Peru
 - d) England
- 3) How much was the food he stole worth?
 - a) \$54
 - b) \$45
 - c) \$5.40
 - d) \$4.50
- 4) How much was the man initially fined by the court?
 - a) \$11,500
 - b) \$1115
 - c) \$115
 - d) \$11.50
- 5) What did the court say the man stole the food out of?
 - a) a restaurant
 - b) a bag
 - c) a taxi
 - d) desperation
- 6) What do people hope the case will highlight in Italy?
 - a) crime
 - b) health
 - c) poverty
 - d) food
- 7) For which crime might people not be convicted?
 - a) shoplifting
 - b) pickpocketing
 - c) fraud
 - d) assault
- 8) What is Maurizio Bellacosa's job?
 - a) chef
 - b) charity worker
 - c) lawyer
 - d) police officer
- 9) What was the basic requirement for people mentioned in the article?
 - a) following the law
 - b) feeding themselves
 - c) giving to charity
 - d) compassion
- 10) What is the name of the newspaper that spoke about the case?
 - a) La Stampa
 - b) La Gazzetta
 - c) La Italia
 - d) La Journal

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Food when hungry

You think stealing food when hungry is the worst kind of theft. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most understandable of these (and why): using a neighbour's wi-fi, taking flowers from a garden or not buying a train ticket.

Role B – A neighbour's wi-fi

You think using a neighbour's wi-fi is the worst kind of theft. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most understandable of these (and why): stealing food when hungry, taking flowers from a garden or not buying a train ticket.

Role C – Flowers from a garden

You think taking flowers from a garden is the worst kind of theft. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most understandable of these (and why): using a neighbour's wi-fi, stealing food when hungry or not buying a train ticket.

Role D – Not buying a train ticket

You think not buying a train ticket is the worst kind of theft. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the most understandable of these (and why): using a neighbour's wi-fi, taking flowers from a garden or stealing food when hungry.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'court' and 'appeal'.

court	appeal
--------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• brought• threw• worth• surprised• desperation• stave	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hope• arrested• new• state• meet• die
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

STEALING FOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160507-food-theft.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.

STEALING FOOD DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'theft'?
3. What do you think about what you read?
4. Do you think Mr Ostriakov is a thief?
5. Is the government responsible for feeding people who are starving?
6. Would you steal food if you had none?
7. What would you rule if you were the judge?
8. Will this case lead to more shoplifting?
9. Was this case worth the money spent on paying lawyers and judges?
10. Is stealing food a crime?

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STEALING FOOD DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. Why is there homelessness and poverty in rich countries?
13. Would food stores go bankrupt if stealing for food was not a crime?
14. If stealing for food is not a crime, how about stealing clothes?
15. What can countries do to make sure no one is hungry?
16. What's the hungriest you've ever been?
17. What would you do if you had no food or money?
18. Should uneaten food in supermarkets and restaurants go to the poor?
19. How civilised a country is your country?
20. What questions would you like to ask the judge?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

An Italian court has ruled that food theft brought (1) _____ by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court of appeal, the Supreme Court of Cassation, (2) _____ out the conviction of a homeless Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov, who was sentenced (3) _____ six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also fined \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers (4) _____ appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole conviction was (5) _____. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not constitute a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal ruled that stealing small amounts of food to (6) _____ off hunger is not a crime.

Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will (7) _____ the extent of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe the ruling may mean other hungry people who are arrested (8) _____ shoplifting will not be convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov case, "is a new principle, and it might lead to a more (9) _____ application of the state of necessity linked to poverty situations". The court ruled in a statement that: "People should not be (10) _____ if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food in order to (11) _____ the basic requirement of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "The court's decision (12) _____ us all that in a civilised country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) around | (b) in | (c) up | (d) about |
| 2. | (a) erased | (b) deleted | (c) trashed | (d) threw |
| 3. | (a) for | (b) to | (c) as | (d) on |
| 4. | (a) initialed | (b) initialise | (c) initially | (d) initials |
| 5. | (a) quashed | (b) squashed | (c) quiche | (d) cached |
| 6. | (a) stave | (b) staff | (c) stuff | (d) starve |
| 7. | (a) lighten | (b) lighting | (c) lowlight | (d) highlight |
| 8. | (a) for | (b) as | (c) by | (d) on |
| 9. | (a) time | (b) frequent | (c) often | (d) usually |
| 10. | (a) punishing | (b) punish | (c) punished | (d) punishment |
| 11. | (a) debut | (b) appeal | (c) meet | (d) congregate |
| 12. | (a) combines | (b) reminds | (c) demands | (d) rescinds |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. Italy's highest court of elpaap
2. a creoiutdn in that fine
3. the whole tiocvconn was quashed
4. does not uttecnoits a crime
5. out of sidrtnopeae
6. small onamstu of food

Paragraph 2

7. the extent of vepryot and homelessness
8. drtsræe for shoplifting
9. a more uenqefrt application
10. People should not be siednpuh
11. the basic rtreqneuemi of feeding themselves
12. in a svileiicd (UK) / dcveizlii (USA) country

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () surprised when the whole conviction was quashed. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not
- () \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers initially appealed for a reduction in that fine and were
- () convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov case, "is a new principle, and it might lead to a more
- () ruled that stealing small amounts of food to stave off hunger is not a crime.
- () of appeal, the Supreme Court of Cassation, threw out the conviction of a homeless Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov,
- () frequent application of the state of necessity linked to poverty situations". The court ruled in a
- () believe the ruling may mean other hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will not be
- (**1**) An Italian court has ruled that food theft brought about by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court
- () who was sentenced to six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also fined
- () order to meet the basic requirement of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "The court's
- () constitute a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal
- () decision reminds us all that in a civilised country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."
- () statement that: "People should not be punished if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food in
- () Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will highlight the extent of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. is brought hunger illegal theft by not Food about .

2. jail cheese to in stealing Sentenced months for six .

3. for in appealed reduction fine initially a that Lawyers .

4. when quashed conviction the Surprised was whole .

5. amount of food out of desperation He stole a small .

6. extent and Italy the poverty in Highlight of homelessness .

7. for shoplifting will not be convicted People who are arrested .

8. more might frequent lead application to a It .

9. themselves feeding of requirement basic the Meet .

10. should to hunger one allowed of No be die .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

An Italian court has *ruled / riled* that food theft brought about by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court of *appealing / appeal*, the Supreme Court of Cassation, threw *up / out* the conviction of a homeless Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov, who was sentenced *to / for* six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage *worthy / worth* \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also *funded / fined* \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers *initially / initials* appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole *convicted / conviction* was quashed. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not constitute a crime" because he *stole / stealing* a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal ruled that stealing small amounts of food to *stave / staff* off hunger is not a crime.

Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will *lowlight / highlight* the extent of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe the ruling may mean other hungry people who are arrested *from / for* shoplifting will not be convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov *cease / case*, "is a new principle, and it might lead to a more *frequently / frequent* application of the state of *necessity / necessary* linked to poverty situations". The court ruled in a statement that: "People should not be *punishment / punished* if, forced by need, they steal small *qualities / quantities* of food in order to meet the basic *requires / requirement* of feeding themselves." Italy's La Stampa newspaper said: "The court's decision *rescinds / reminds* us all that in a civilised country, no one should be allowed to *die / death* of hunger."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

_n _t_l__n c__rt h_s r_l_d th_t f__d th_ft br__ght
_b__t by h_ng_r _s n_t _ll_g_l. _t_ly's h_gh_st c__rt
_f__pp__l, th_ S_pr_m_ C__rt _f C_ss_t__n, thr_w __t
th_ c_nv_ct__n _f _h_m_l_ss _kr__n__n m_n, R_m_n
_str__k_v, wh_ w_s s_nt_nc_d t_s_x m_nths _n j__l
f_r st__l_ng ch__s_ _nd _s__s_g_ w_rth \$4.50. Mr
_str__k_v w_s _ls_ f_n_d \$115 by th_ tr__l c__rt. H_s
l_wy_rs _n_t__lly _pp__l_d f_r _r_d_ct__n _n th_t
f_n__nd w_r_ s_rpr_s_d wh_n th_ wh_l_ c_nv_ct__n
w_s q__sh_d. Th_ c__rt s__d Mr _str__k_v t_k_ng th_
f__d, "d__s n_t c_nst_t_t__ _cr_m_" b_c__s_ h_st_l_
_sm_ll _m__nt _f f__d __t _f_d_spr_t__n. Th_ c__rt
_f__pp__l r_l_d th_t st__l_ng sm_ll _m__nts _f f__d t_
st_v_ __ff h_ng_r _s n_t _cr_m_.

M_ny p__pl_ h_p_ Mr _str__k_v's c_s_ w_ll h_ghl_gh_t
th_ __xt_nt _f p_v_rty _nd h_m_l_ssn_ss _n_t_ly. Th_y
ls b_l__v_ th_r_l_ng m_y m__n_th_r h_ngr_y p__pl_
wh_ __r_ __rr_st_d f_r sh_pl_ft_ng w_ll n_t b_
c_nv_ct_d. Cr_m_n_l l_wy_r M__r_z__ B_ll_c_s_ s__d
th_ _str__k_v c_s_, "s_ n_w pr_nc_pl_, _nd _t m_gh_t
l__d t__ m_r_fr_q__nt _ppl_c_t__n _f th_ st_t__f
n_c_ss_ty l_nk_d t_ p_v_rty s_t__t__ns". Th_ c__rt
r_l_d _n__st_t_m_nt th_t: "P__pl_ sh__ld n_t b_
p_n_sh_d __f, f_rc_d by n__d, th_y st__l sm_ll
q__nt_t__s _f f__d _n _rd_r t_ m__t th_ b_s_c
r_q__r_m_nt _f f__d_ng th_ms_lv_s." _t_ly's L_
St_m_p_ n_wsp_p_r_s__d: "Th_ c__rt's d_c_s__n
r_m_nds _s__ll th_t _n__c_v_l_s_d c__ntry, n__n_
sh__ld b__ll_w_d t_d__ _f h_ng_r."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

an italian court has ruled that food theft brought about by hunger is not illegal italy's highest court of appeal the supreme court of cassation threw out the conviction of a homeless ukrainian man roman ostriakov who was sentenced to six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$450 mr ostriakov was also fined \$115 by the trial court his lawyers initially appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole conviction was quashed the court said mr ostriakov taking the food "does not constitute a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation the court of appeal ruled that stealing small amounts of food to stave off hunger is not a crime

many people hope mr ostriakov's case will highlight the extent of poverty and homelessness in italy they also believe the ruling may mean other hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will not be convicted criminal lawyer maurizio bellacosa said the ostriakov case "is a new principle and it might lead to a more frequent application of the state of necessity linked to poverty situations" the court ruled in a statement that "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 "the court's decision reminds us all that in a civilised country no one should be allowed to die of hunger"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

An Italian court has ruled that food theft brought about by hunger is not illegal. Italy's highest court of appeal, the Supreme Court of Cassation, threw out the conviction of a homeless Ukrainian man, Roman Ostriakov, who was sentenced to six months in jail for stealing cheese and a sausage worth \$4.50. Mr Ostriakov was also fined \$115 by the trial court. His lawyers initially appealed for a reduction in that fine and were surprised when the whole conviction was quashed. The court said Mr Ostriakov taking the food, "does not constitute a crime" because he stole a small amount of food out of desperation. The court of appeal ruled that stealing a small amount of food to stave off hunger is not a crime. Many people hope Mr Ostriakov's case will highlight the extent of poverty and homelessness in Italy. They also believe the ruling may mean other hungry people who are arrested for shoplifting will not be convicted. Criminal lawyer Maurizio Bellacosa said the Ostriakov case, "is a new principle, and it might lead to a more frequent application of the state of necessity linked to poverty situations". The court ruled in a statement that: "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: "The court's decision reminds us all that in a civilised country, no one should be allowed to die of hunger."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. POVERTY: Make a poster about poverty. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. FOOD THEFT: Write a magazine article about stealing food not being a crime. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on crime. Ask him/her three questions about the court deciding that food theft is not a crime if someone is hungry. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to reduce poverty. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c F d T e T f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. ruled | a. decreed |
| 2. threw out | b. rejected |
| 3. jail | c. prison |
| 4. constitute | d. amount to |
| 5. desperation | e. hopelessness |
| 6. extent | f. degree |
| 7. case | g. legal action |
| 8. principle | h. rule |
| 9. amounts | i. quantity |
| 10. basic | j. simple |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The highest court of appeal
2. Ukraine
3. \$4.50
4. \$115
5. Desperation
6. Homelessness and poverty
7. Shoplifting
8. A criminal lawyer
9. Feeding themselves
10. La Stampa

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. c 7. a 8. c 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)