



Rise of the ‘mammone’

Lesson code: JQVI-NSXB-ASBD-5

PRE-INTERMEDIATE+

1 Key words

Match the underlined words to their definitions.

1. Unemployment is very high in this country. Nobody can find a job.
 2. His recent behaviour reinforces my opinion that he is very lazy.
 3. Mark behaves like a child. He will never grow up.
 4. These days, nobody cares about the welfare of children in poor countries.
 5. He tried to encourage me to go to the party, but I didn't want to go.
 6. Jack paid a price for drinking too much last night. His head really hurts now.
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- a. become an adult or start to behave like an adult
 - b. health, happiness, and fortunes of a person or group
 - c. makes stronger
 - d. persuade someone to do something
 - e. suffer the bad results of doing something risky
 - f. the number of people who are without work

2 Reading

Choose the best answer for each question and then check your responses by reading the article on the next page.

1. How many Italian adults between 18-34 years old still live with their parents?
a. 10 per cent b. 33 per cent c. 66 per cent
2. When was the global financial crisis?
a. in 2003 b. in 2008 c. in 2012
3. How many Italian adults between 18-34 years old were living with their parents before the financial crisis?
a. 20 per cent b. 40 per cent c. 60 per cent
4. What is the unemployment level in Italy at the moment?
a. 10 per cent b. 20 per cent c. 50 per cent

THE
INDEPENDENT

Rise of the 'mammone': Two-thirds of young Italian adults live at home with their parents

In Italy's current economic situation, youth unemployment is approaching 50 per cent

- 1 Two in three young adult Italians now live with their parents, according to official figures that seem to reinforce the stereotype of the 'mammone', the Italian child who never grows up.
- 2 The Eurostat figures show that nearly 7.4 million, or 66 per cent, of 18- to 34-year-olds are now living at home compared with around 60 per cent before the financial crisis in 2008. According to observers, the fact most young adults have not left the family nest is a result of Italy's economic situation, with youth unemployment almost 50 per cent.
- 3 The newspaper La Stampa said the new figures showed that the Italian family was a place of welfare. However, around 60 per cent of young adults were living with their parents before 2008. This fact suggests that the Italian culture might also be important.
- 4 In 2010, a minister in the last government of Silvio Berlusconi wanted laws that encourage young people to leave home by 18. The Innovation Minister, Renato Brunetta said it was needed to "deal with the culture of mummy's boys and big babies". Mr Brunetta added: "All these young people think they're living in a free hotel, and actually there's a price they pay. It allows their parents to keep control of them, emotionally, socially and financially".

Adapted from The Independent, by Michael Day, Monday 09 February 2015

3 Checking understanding

Read the whole text and answer the questions below:

1. Why are more Italian adults living with their parents?
2. What is the reason why so many Italian adults were living with their parents before 2008?
3. Why did the Italian Innovation Minister want new laws?
4. How did he describe the Italian culture?
5. According to the minister, what are the disadvantages for young adults who live at home with their parents?

4 Collocations

Match the words to form phrases from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. youth | adults |
| 2. financial | boys |
| 3. family | crisis |
| 4. young | nest |
| 5. mummy's | unemployment |

Now complete the sentences below with the phrases above.

- _____ is very high. There are no available jobs at the moment.
- Richard is such a _____. He can't imagine living on his own.
- Many people cannot go shopping because of the _____.
- Kate loves her parents so much. She doesn't want to leave the _____.
- A lot of _____ want to have their own home and live independently.

5 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below.

- What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages for young adults who still live at home with their parents?
- Are young adults independent in your country?
- At what age do young adults normally 'leave the family nest' in your country? Why?

6 Grammar - Tense review

Study the sentences below from the text.

- Two-thirds of young Italian adults live at home with their parents
- Youth unemployment is approaching 50 per cent.
- Around 60 per cent of young adults were living with their parents before 2008.
- Most young adults have not left the nest.
- In 2010, a minister in the last government of Silvio Berlusconi wanted laws that encourage young people to leave home by 18.

Which sentence describes ...

1. a trend or situation happening at this moment?
2. a permanent situation in the present?
3. an event in the past?
4. a situation that was in progress at a particular time in the past?
5. a recent event (without saying *when* the event happened)?

Which tense is used in each sentence?

7 Grammar practice I

Complete the sentences below using the present simple, present continuous, past simple or past continuous:

1. In 2009, the government minister _____ (decide) to resign.
2. Joe is almost 30 years old, but he still _____ (not/leave) home.
3. Alison _____ (go) to work by bus every day. It's the most convenient form of transport for her.
4. What _____ (you/do) at the moment?
5. What _____ (you/have) for lunch yesterday?
6. I _____ (usually/travel) by car, but this week I _____ (travel) by bike.
7. At 6am this morning, I _____ (sleep). I _____ (normally/get up) at 10am.
8. I _____ (receive) a lot of emails recently.
9. At the moment, it _____ (rain). It _____ (not/usually/rain) at this time of year.
10. The government _____ (decide) to increase taxes. Nobody is happy.

8 Grammar practice II

Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer the questions below.

1. What are you doing right now?
2. What do you do every day?
3. What did you do yesterday?
4. What have you done recently?
5. What were you doing yesterday at 5pm?