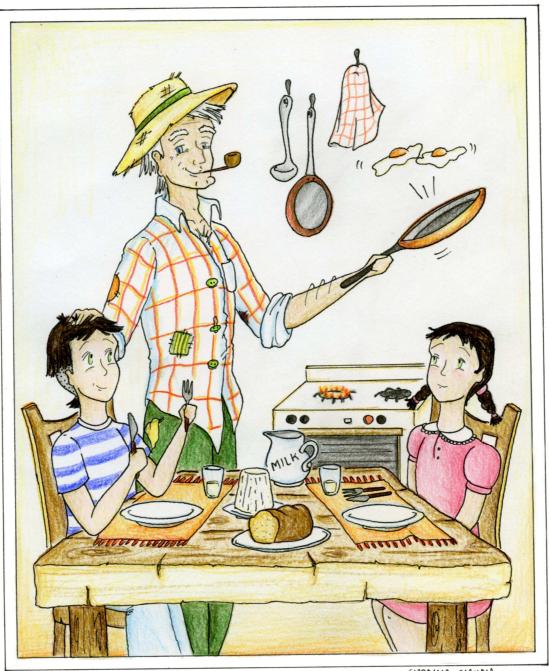
UniT 34

Abel



GIARDINA CLAUDIA

A Bargain Sale

Tom - Hello, darling! Have you already had breakfast?

Marg. - No, dear. I've just come down.

Tom - Well, I've got a huge appetite this morning! I woke up at dawn and went for an early swim. I've just come back.

Marg. - But wasn't the sea very cold?

Yes, indeed it was. <u>Bitterly</u> cold. It certainly wasn't the right hour for <u>swimming</u>... but at least my swim has given me a healthy appetite.

Marg. - What's the weather like? Is it still cloudy, like it was yesterday?

Tom - Oh, no. The sky is absolutely clear today.

Marg. - Then, as soon as breakfast is over, I'm going shopping.

Tom - Again? Oh, Margaret!

Marg. - It's quite useless to say: "Oh, <u>Margaret!</u>" There is a wonderful bargain sale on, at that big department-store we passed yesterday. They are selling off their whole stock at half price!

Tom - How do you know?

Marg. - Because it said so on all the price tickets.

Tom - They only <u>say</u> that, just to cheat the public.

Marg. - Don't be ridiculous, Tom. The original price that was written on the tickets, had been crossed out, and the reduced price was written below it. And it was never less than half the original price. I'm not very good at arithmetic, I know, but even a <u>baby</u> could have understood <u>that</u>.

All right. I see that it's no use arguing with you. You've made up your mind to buy a lot more things that you don't need, and that's that.

A Bargain Sale

Marg. - But don't you understand, Tom? - I can buy <u>heaps</u> of <u>lovely</u> things at <u>half</u> their usual price: <u>beautiful</u> underwear, <u>delightful</u> pullovers, costume jewellery, dress materials... <u>dozens</u> of things!

- If you don't <u>need</u> them, why <u>buy</u> them? If you just put together all the things that you have bought in Spain, you'll find that you've already bought enough to start a small shop with. And <u>now</u> you say that you want to add even <u>more</u> things to the pile! Oh <u>heavens!</u>

Marg. - What a fuss you make about nothing, Tom! Just because I want to make a few purchases!

Tom - Darling, I am <u>not</u> making a fuss.

Marg. - Oh yes, you <u>are</u>. You're trying to make me believe that all shop-keepers are thieves and liars, and I refuse to listen to you. I'm going to that bargain sale this morning, and it's useless to try and stop me!

Tom - This time next week you'll be saying: "Oh why did I spend all that money on things I didn't need?!"

Marg. - No, I shan't. I'm very <u>pleased</u> with <u>all</u> the things that I've bought so far. Those beautiful photograph albums that I bought yesterday, for example. The binding is <u>real leather...</u> and the shop assistant gave me a big discount because I bought two of them.

Tom - But you didn't <u>need</u> two, did you?

Marg. - What's wrong with you to-day, Tom? You seem to be in a very bad mood.

Tom - Just because I say that you don't need <u>two</u> huge photograph albums?

 Please stop, Tom! I've listened to quite enough. I told the hall porter to get me a taxi for nine-thirty. It will be here at any moment. So good-bye for the present. I'll see you later.

A Bargain Sale

 You don't need a taxi! We can use the car. The mechanic has put it into perfect order again.

Marg. - You can use the car, if you want to. I want to be alone this morning, so that I can choose my purchases in peace. So, as I just said: I'll see you later.

Tom - But what about your breakfast?

Marg. - There's a coffee bar in the department store. I can have something there.

bargain

 Something that is a bargain is good value for money, usually because it has been sold at a lower price than normal. Collins Dictionary

sale = vendita

bargain sale = vendita promozionale; liquidazione

for sale = in vendita

to sell off = liquidare

At bargain sales, big department stores often offer a big discount on the original prices of their goods, especially when they are selling off their stock of some article that is going out of fashion.

Sometimes this merchandise can be bought at half the original price.

When they see these reduced prices on the price tags, many women buy a lot of things that they don't need, just because the prices are low. Then they return home, with their arms full of parcels and imagine that, in making all these purchases, they have <u>saved</u> money, instead of wasting it.

"Look!" they exclaim to their husbands, "Look! All these lovely things were being offered for sale at <u>half price!</u>" And they are astonished when their husbands do not seem to be happy at all.

discount = sconto

===

goods = mercanzia, merci

stock = *inventario*

price tag = cartellino del prezzo

purchase = acquistoto purchase = acquistare

Traduzione di "come"

- 1. how
 - How is Elisa? = Come sta Elisa?
- 2. What is... like?
 - What is Elisa like? = Come è Elisa? (Che tipo è?)

Tom and Margaret

- Last night I slept very well after our long walk, so this morning I went for an early swim.
- Marg. What was the sea like?
- Very cold. So after my swim I had a big cup of very hot coffee at that little café near the beach.
- Marg. What is the coffee like there? Good?
- Tom Exquisite!
- Marg. And what's the weather like this morning? Do you think it's going to be sunny?
- Tom Yes, but very windy.

- You know Elisa, don't you? What's she like?
- She is very smart!
- And what is her boyfriend Brian like?
- He is a really nice guy, who likes to joke and laugh about everything.

sunny = soleggiato
windy = ventoso
smart = intelligente
guy = tipo



dawn = alba

Dawn is the time of day when light first appears in the sky, just before the sun rises.



dusk = crepuscolo

Dusk is the time just before night when the daylight has almost gone, but when it is not completely dark.

Many peasants work from dawn to dusk.

at dawn = all'alba

at dusk = al crepuscolo at twilight = al crepuscolo



1. **ticket** = biglietto

 When you want to go somewhere you usually buy your ticket in advance. So you buy a train, a bus or a plane ticket.

You may buy a one way ticket or a return ticket. You also buy tickets to go to the cinema, to the theatre, to a concert, to the opera etc.

- 2. **price ticket** = etichetta
 - When you go shopping, before buying something you usually look at the price ticket.
- 3. **ticket** = multa
 - If you park your car in the wrong place or for too long, you
 may get a parking ticket.
 If you exceed the speed limit you may get a ticket for
 speeding.

1. mind = mente

to be out of one's mind = essere fuori di testa

 Bungee jumping (also spelled "Bungy" jumping) is an activity of jumping from a great height with an elastic cord attached to the ankles.

Although there have been few mortal accidents, sometimes during a bungee jump a blood vessel bursts. If this blood vessel is near or in the retina, then the retina can become partially or totally detached, and cause a partial or total loss of sight.

My conclusion: People that practice bungee jumping must be out of their minds.

height = altezza ankle = caviglia

cord = corda blood vessel = vaso sanguigno

to attach = attaccare, legare to burst = scoppiare

partial or total loss of sight = perdita totale o parziale della vista

2. mind

to make up one's mind = decidere, decidersi

Make up your mind! = Deciditi!

3. mind = cambiare idea

4. mind to go out of one's mind = uscire di testa

Nota

Mind you! = Attenzione!
I don't mind. = Non mi importa.



From: Ivan Morrison <van.morr@hotmail.com

To: Abel Paganini <abel.paganini@gmail.com

Subject: Good news!

Hi Abel!

Lately the weather has been awful: wind, rain, snow... But in spite of the weather your silly cousin kept going into the freezing little terrace next to the office to smoke a cigarette from eight to ten times a day.

About ten days ago, Doriana, one of my colleagues, said to me, "Ivan, you must be out of your mind to stand in the freezing cold terrace smoking cigarettes. Besides, you look so ridiculous with a cigarette in your mouth and trembling all over. Mind you, you don't look macho at all!"

That same day I made up my mind to quit smoking, once and for all!

Believe it or not your cousin Ivan hasn't been smoking for a whole week, and he will not change his mind as long as he lives.

The first week I thought that I would go out of my mind! But now I'm beginning to feel fine.

Now I am much more relaxed. I don't even mind my noisy neighbours any more, and when I meet them in the elevator I even manage to smile at them.

Yesterday on my desk I found a box of chocolates and an empty cigarette packet. There was also a card with this message: mens sana in corpore sano = a healthy mind in a healthy body.

Love,

Your cousin Ivan

It is useless. $= \dot{E}$ inutile.

It is useless to complain. $| = \dot{E}$ inutile lamentarsi.

 $= \dot{E}$ inutile. It is no use.

It is no use complaining. $|= \hat{E}$ inutile lamentarsi.

Nota | Il verbo che segue "It is no use" va al gerundio.

When Margaret makes up her mind to buy something, it's no use arguing with her. It's no use saying to her, "Don't waste your money!"

When she makes up her mind to do something, she does it, and that's that.

And that's that. = "Punto e basta."

(Questa espressione si usa per enfatizzare che una situazione o decisione non si può cambiare.)

< < < ⁽²⁾ > > >

This time next week.

= Da qui a una settimana.

This time next month, etc.

Tom and Margaret

- Look at all these lovely things I've bought at the Marg. bargain sale, Tom!

- This time next week you'll be saying, "Oh! Why did I Tom waste so much money!"

Marg. - No, I won't. And this time next month I'll have two lovely new dresses, made of this beautiful cloth I've bought.

- Well, this time next year you'll be my wife, and you Tom won't be wasting any more money at bargain sales, my darling.

===

cloth = stoffa

at any moment = da un momento all'altro

at any minute = da un momento all'altro

< < < ⁽⁾ > > >

for the present = per adesso

for now = per adesso

When people are going out for only a short time, they often say:

Goodbye for the present!

٥r

Goodbye for now!

< < < ⁽⁾ > > >

to

"You can use the car, if you want to."

That is $= cio\dot{e}$

"You can use the car, if you want to use it."

Spesso si usa "to" alla fine di una frase per sostituire un infinito.

Teacher and Pupil

Teacher - You aren't making any progress at all in French. You don't study as much as you ought to. Why don't you study more? Don't you <u>like</u> to study French?

 Pupil - Oh yes, I <u>like</u> to, and I <u>want</u> to, but I have so little time.

Teacher - Well, if you don't make a little progress soon, I'll have to speak to your father about it. I don't want to, in fact I hate to, but I will have to, because it is my duty.
===

duty = dovere

```
early
                 = presto (agg.)
1.
     In the early morning - afternoon - evening
     (La mattina presto...)
       early
                 = all'inizio di
2.
     In early spring - summer - winter...
     (all'inizio della primavera - estate - inverno...)
     In early January, February, August...
       early
3.
     He is in his early twenties.
                                   = Ha da 20 a 23 anni.
     She is in her early thirties.
                                   = Ha da 30 a 33 anni.
                                    = Ha da 50 a 53 anni.
     He is in his early fifties.
       early
4.
                  = i primi anni
     the early 1960s
                                    = dal 1960 al 1963
     the early 1980s etc.
                                    = dal 1980 al 1983
5.
         early
                    = primo; primi
     Oscar Wilde's early works included two collections of fairy
     stories, The Happy Prince and A House of Pomegranates.
6.
         early
                   = presto, in anticipo (avverbio)
     George usually arrives at work early.
         late
                    = tardi; in ritardo; alla fine di; gli ultimi anni
     it is late - it is too late
     The train was an hour late.
     in late July
     in the late 1970s
```

George is in his late thirties.

early - late

Abel

Getting up early has never been my idea of having fun; but when we lived in Seville I often did it.

My sister Debra has always been an early riser. So she was more than happy to wake me up in the morning.

In late spring and in early summer we used to get up as early as we could and go to have breakfast at Andrés' farm.

Andrés had a large farm just next to our house. He was in his late seventies but he was so strong and agile that everybody thought he was in his early fifties.

We used to go straight to the cow shed, because at that early hour we were sure to find Andrés milking his cows. (He always got up much earlier than we did, of course!)

When he saw us he used to smile happily and go on milking the cows. When he finished, he would rise from his little stool, wash his hands and hug us.

After that, Debra and I went to the chicken coops to get some fresh eggs, while Andrés prepared the milk in what he proudly called "my kitchen".

I think that in the early twentieth century people had more modern kitchens! There was no electricity, no running water and the floor was just dirt; but we loved that place!

In such a place you would have expected Andrés to light the fire with a flint stone, like early peoples! But no, he used matches! (He needed them to light his pipe.)

He quickly made a fire to heat the milk, toast the bread and fry some eggs. Then he got a bowl of fresh ricotta cheese and put it on the table. My God! What a breakfast! Sweet Andrés, we have lost touch with you. But I promise that next time we come to Spain we'll come and look for you!

```
we used to = solevamo
chicken coop = pollaio
running water = acqua corrente
dirt = terra battuta

flint stone = pietra focaia
pipe = pipa
touch = contatto
```

Weather Forecast

= previsioni del tempo

"Changeable" = variabile

It is forecast to be a generally changeable week with low pressure in the Atlantic producing west or southwesterly winds which will bring rain to many areas, especially at the beginning and the end of the week.

During the middle of the week there will be a colder spell with night-time frosts returning.

Temperatures this week will start off slightly above average with many places seeing double figures but those values are unlikely to be seen again this week. Monday is forecast to be around 10°C in Aberdeen and 11°C in Plymouth.

Temperatures will slip back down to below average values for the middle and latter part of the week. On Thursday for example, it is predicted to be 5°C in Glasgow and just 6°C in London.

Most places will see some rain this week, some of it heavy at times but rainfall amounts are not expected to exceed the seasonal average.

There will be drier and brighter spells this week but England and Wales will probably not see as much sunshine, while Scotland and Northern Ireland will probably experience a little bit more than the seasonal average.

===

```
to forecast
                                 average
                                               = medio; nella media
              = prevedere
low
                                 unlikely
                                               = improbabile
              = basso
pressure
              = pressione
                                 to slip back = ritornare
              = occidentale
                                               = ultimo
westerly
                                 latter
spell
              = periodo
                                 heavy
                                               = pesante
frost
              = gelo, gelata
                                 to exceed
                                               = eccedere
figure
              = cifra
                                 bright
                                               = brillante
slightly
              = leggermente
                                seasonal
                                               = stagionale
```

Common Weather Terms

e.g. (exempli gratia) = per esempio

precipitation

Any form of water, whether liquid (e.g. rain, drizzle) or solid (e.g. hail, snow), that falls from a cloud or group of clouds and reaches the ground.

dry

A period without precipitation.

fine

Dry weather during which conditions are mostly sunny or bright.

wet

A period during which rain or showers occur most of the time.

showers

Usually begin and end suddenly. Showers may fall in patches rather than across the whole forecast area. They may range in intensity from light to very heavy.

showery

A period during which there are showers and temporary clearances.

stormy

A period during which rain and high winds predominate.

settled

A period of several days during which the weather is either dry, fine, or dry, apart from a few patches of rain. Free from storm or wind.

unsettled

A period of several days during which rain and hail and sunshine are likely to occur.

isolated

Rain or showers occur over very little of an area.

scattered

Rain or showers may occur in a number of places but not everywhere over a district or region.

fog, mist, haze

These are terms to describe reduction in visibility. Fog limits visibility to less than 1 kilometre, while in mist or haze you might be able to see as far as 10 kilometres.

windy

A period during which there is generally much more wind than usual.

Common Weather Terms

Changeable

A period of several days during which there are a series of large fluctuations between clear or bright conditions, and periods of precipitation. The clear or bright conditions may last as long as a day or two.

Overcast

The sky is totally covered with thick and opaque clouds, around 100% cloud cover.

Cloudy

For a longer period during the day the sun is obscured by clouds.

===

whether = sia

drizzle = pioggerella period = periodo

precipitation = precipitazione condition = condizione

mostly = principalmente

shower = acquazzone to occur = occorrere

most of = la maggior parte di

patch = chiazza
range = raggio
intensity = intensità
light = leggero; luce

temporary = temporaneo

clearance = schiarita

to predominate = predominare

apart from = oltre a

sunshine = *luce del sole*

likely = probabile district = distretto term = termine reduction = riduzione visibility = visibilità mist = foschia haze = foschia changeable = mutevole

series = *serie*

fluctuation = fluttuazione
overcast = coperto (cielo)
totally = totalmente
thick = spesso (agg.)

opaque = opaco to obscure = oscurare



rain = pioggia

Rain is water that falls from clouds in small drops.



snow = neve

Snow consists of a lot of soft white bits of frozen water that fall from the sky in cold weather.



cloud = nuvola

Cloud is a visible mass of water or ice particles in the atmosphere from which rain and other forms of precipitation fall.



foq = nebbia

Fog is condensed water vapour in the air at or near ground level.



clear sky = cielo chiaro

When the sky has no clouds.



dew = rugiada

Dew is water droplets on cool outdoor surfaces: Moisture from the air that has condensed as tiny drops on outdoor objects and surfaces that have cooled, especially during the night.



avalanche = valanga

A large body of snow, ice or rock and debris sliding down a mountain.



cyclone = ciclone

A large-scale storm system with heavy rain and winds that rotate counter clockwise in the northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern hemisphere around and toward a low-pressure centre.



anticyclone = anticiclone

A high-pressure system that moves in a clockwise motion. These bring you sunny skies.



blizzard = tempesta di neve

A severe snowstorm with strong winds and poor visibility. For a snowstorm to be classified as a blizzard, winds must exceed 56 km per hour and the temperature must be -7° C



air pollution = inquinamento atmosferico

Chemicals or substances in the atmosphere that are harmful to living things.



breeze = brezza

A light wind.



flood = inondazione

It results from days of heavy rain and/or melting snows, when rivers rise and go over their banks.



lightning = fulmine

Flashes of light seen in the sky when there is a discharge of atmospheric electricity in the clouds or between clouds and the ground, usually occurring during a thunderstorm.



hail = grandine

Hail consists of small balls of ice that fall like rain from the sky.



rainbow = arcobaleno

Rainbows are caused by the reflection and refraction (bending) of sunlight passing through raindrops.



sunrise = alba

The time the sun appears above the horizon.



sunset = tramonto

The time the sun disappears below the horizon.

condition drop = goccia = condizione bit = rigido = pezzettino severe frozen = ghiacciato snowstorm = tempesta di neve to classify = classificare mass = massa particle = scarso, povero = particella poor atmosphere = atmosfera visibility = visibilità condensed = condensato to exceed = eccedere vapour chemicals = prodotti chimici = vapore level substance = livello = sostanza droplet = gocciolina harmful = dannoso outdoor light = all'aperto = leggero surface = superficie to melt = sciogliere -si to cool = rinfrescare bank = riva (di fiume) rock discharge = scarica = roccia debris = detriti electricity = elettricità to slide = scivolare to occur = accadere to rotate = ruotare reflection = riflesso refraction clockwise = in senso orario = rifrazione northern to bend = settentrionale = piegare southern = meridionale to appear = apparire hemisphere = emisfero to disappear = scomparire below low-pressure = bassa pressione = sotto horizon = orizzonte

-7° C = 7 gradi centigradi sotto zero

counterclockwise = in senso antiorario clockwise = in senso orario

Millie

Last Sunday, soon after Robert had gone to the bedroom for his afternoon nap, Mother telephoned. It woke Robert up, and of course, he was not amused.

Mother had telephoned to say that she was going to visit us at five o'clock.

As Robert was not in a splendid mood, I wanted to say, "Oh, <u>no!</u> For heaven's sake don't come today, Mother!" But...well, you <u>can't</u> say such a thing to your own mother, <u>can</u> you? So I just said, "Very well, Mother, I'll see you later then. Goodbye for the present."

We had had a late lunch and it was already four o'clock, so I quickly tidied the flat and ran downstairs to the little cake shop at the corner of the street, to buy a few pastries.

When I got back home, I found that Robert had got up.

As soon as he saw the little parcel of cakes in my hand, he said, "What is there inside that parcel?"

"I thought you might like to have some cakes with your tea, Robert," I said. (Now I suppose you will think: "Aha! So Millie is a liar!" But, after all it wasn't a big lie, was it? And if you were married to Robert, you might sometimes tell small lies too.) Well, my little lie seemed to put him in a better mood at once. He even smiled, and began to open the parcel of cakes.

"Not <u>now</u>, dear," I said quickly. "Let me make the tea first." But he was already eating one of the best cakes. I was afraid that he might eat them all before Mother came, but in that moment she knocked at the door.

divertito

per adesso

ordinai

pasticcini

bugiarda bugia

Millie

Poor dear Mother! She has so little money, but she had bought us a present!

"I've got a nice surprise for you," she said. "I bought it at a bargain sale." And she began to open a very big, flat parcel that she was carrying.

"Now, Mother," I said, "I'm very grateful to you, and I'm sure that Robert will be, too, but you ought not to spend your money on presents for us. You have so little."

"Just wait till you have seen it," she said.

Well, guess what it was! A lovely picture for the wall of our living room! And the <u>subject</u> of the picture was so <u>pleasing</u>! Two dear little birds eating cherries!

Robert was still in the kitchen, eating the cakes, and I was in such a hurry to show him the picture that I went to the kitchen with it.

"Look what mother has bought us!" I exclaimed. "A picture for our living room! And in such a pretty frame too!"

I thought that he would be just as pleased as I was. But, instead, he just said loudly, with an ironic expression on his face, "Birds! Sentimental rubbish! As if you didn't both know that I hate birds, with their horrible noisy singing. Do you think that I want to see those two ridiculous birds on the wall in front of me, at breakfast, lunch and dinner?"

"Oh, Robert," I said, "please be quiet! Mother will hear you!"

tema

ciliegie

cornice

a voce alta

Millie

But she had already heard him and came straight into the kitchen.

Now, although at times Mother can be quite as difficult to deal with as Robert, there are moments, too, when she can be very, <u>very</u> dignified. And she was dignified now.

"You don't seem to be in a very good mood, Robert," she said, "or maybe you aren't well. If that is the case, go to bed, if you want to. I shan't be offended. After all, this is your own home, and you are my daughter's husband. I'm not just a person that you hardly know, am I? I can quite understand that you don't want to talk, if you aren't well. Perhaps you have caught a cold. The weather has been so bad all the week, hasn't it? So rainy and cold."

Robert didn't say a word, and I felt so proud of Mother.

Suddenly, as if she had just remembered it, Mother picked up the picture.

"And it seems, too, that you don't like the present," she said. "What a pity! Millie and I are both very fond of birds. Most people are. But if you like, I can go back to the shop and ask if they will change it. But for the price that I paid there were only pictures of birds or animals. So what animal would you prefer? A monkey, perhaps? Or a hyena? Or a crocodile?"

Poor Robert stood there in absolute silence, just like a child that had been scolded.

dignitoso

in tal caso

prese

Millie

Mother went away soon after that, although I tried to persuade her to remain for a little while. And she took the picture with her. I was terribly sorry about that, because I wanted so much to keep it.

A few days later she came again saying that, unfortunately, all the animal pictures had already been sold.

"But I managed to get this for you instead," she said, and opening a parcel, she showed me a big dog made of wood, with yellow glass eyes and a furious expression. Its mouth was open, showing all its teeth.

"I hope Robert will like this," she said.

I was too astonished to speak.

She put the dog down on the table and soon went away.

When Robert came home at lunch time, I said, "Mother couldn't get another picture. So she brought that dog. She says that she hopes you will like it."

Robert ate his lunch in absolute silence. We have never had such a peaceful meal.

But the next day the dog had disappeared. At first I thought that Robert must have thrown it away, but a day or two later I found it on a shelf in our little lumber room. And it looks so angry that I feel really afraid every time that I have to go there.

pacifico

mensola

A letter from a difficult to please bachelor to his best friend.

scapolo

Dear James,

I have decided to marry. So I have written the names of all the girls that I know in a little notebook. There are about twenty names in all.

Every evening, when my work is over, I sit in my room and ask myself which of these girls would be the best wife for me.

I take each girl in turn and try to remember all that I can about her - all the things that she has said to me, the kind of clothes that she wears, if she seems to be extravagant or economical, if she is vain, or conceited, or boastful (presuntuosa, o vanagloriosa).

If I remember anything about her that displeases me, I simply cross out her name.

So far I have crossed out fifteen names. Now only five remain, but it is so hard to make up my mind! I don't want a wife who expects me to spend money on her from morning to night. The kind of wife who is always saying, "Buy me this! Buy me that! Give me some money! I want to have a look at that bargain sale."

And I don't want a wife who behaves like a baby either. The sort of wife who begins to cry if you speak to her severely, or who makes a fuss about nothing.

No, indeed! I want a quiet, modest, serious wife whose only thought is to make me happy.

She must get up at dawn and spend the day cooking, cleaning and putting the house in order.

cancello

tipo

A Difficult to Please Bachelor

When I come home in the evening, she must receive me with a smile. I don't want to hear any complaints or bad news when I enter the house.

If, for example, she has cut her finger, I am not to blame, and I don't want to hear a single word about it.

If she begins telling me that she has hurt herself in any way, I shall just say, "Listen, my dear, if you have cut yourself, or burnt yourself (ti sei bruciata), it isn't my fault, is it? It's no use crying about it. Crying won't help you, will it? This time next week you will have forgotten about it. But cry if you want to. It's all the same to me."

Oh yes. I shall always be very firm with her in such matters. I am a very sensitive person, you see. I simply cannot <u>bear</u> to hear people talk about cut fingers, or headaches, or things of that kind. It makes me feel really ill! I just can't <u>bear</u> it, and that's that.

But women are <u>always</u> complaining, aren't they? So I must choose my <u>bride</u> very carefully. I mustn't be in a hurry.

I don't want to discover, soon after the wedding, that I have made a big mistake. But I'm tired of being single, so let me have another look at my notebook...

James replies

Dear Rolf,

I'm afraid, my dear friend, that with your old fashioned, and above all selfish ideas, you'll remain a bachelor for the rest of your life.

rigido questioni

sposa

egoista

The Clever Queen

Long, long ago there lived a poor old peasant who had only one daughter and no one else in the world.

He was simple and ignorant, but his daughter was so wise and clever that she could find a way out (trovare una soluzione) of any difficulty, and though she had never been to school, she could answer any question that was put to her, as well as if she had been a university professor.

One beautiful morning in spring the King happened to pass by their poor little cottage (casetta di campagna). He was riding a splendid white horse and was surrounded by a large group of noble ladies and gentlemen, who were also riding magnificent horses.

They were on their way to the nearby woods where they were going to have a picnic.

Behind them came three big carts in which there were a large number of servants and several enormous baskets full of food and wine for the picnic.

Hearing the sound of so many horses, the old peasant came out of his cottage and stood gazing in admiration at all the richly dressed people and the King with his golden crown.

The whole cavalcade had stopped for a moment, so that the King could admire the view. So the peasant was able to approach them and ask for alms (chiedere elemosina).

contadino

sebbene

nobili

vicini boschi

carri

fissando

corona

avvicinarsi

The Clever Queen

Although he was plainly only an ignorant peasant, there was so much dignity in his manner, and he bowed so correctly, that the King asked him where he had learnt to behave so well.

"My daughter teaches me how to behave, Your Majesty," replied the old man.

"Then your daughter must be a very clever woman," said the King with a smile.

"She is the wisest woman in the world," said the old man.

The King and the courtiers laughed heartily at this remark.

Then the King, who was very fond of playing cruel tricks on people, ordered one of the servants to take thirty eggs from one of the food baskets.

"Give these thirty eggs to your clever daughter," said the King, "and say that I want her to hatch thirty chicks from them. It will be a very easy task for The Wisest Woman in the World, as you call her.

When she brings the thirty chicks to the palace, she shall be suitably rewarded for her trouble. But if she fails to bring exactly thirty chicks, you shall both be severely punished - you, because you are a vain old boaster and she, because she allows you to boast about her.

And laughing heartily the King rode on, followed by all the courtiers.

chiaramente comportamento si inchinò

vigorosamente osservazione piaceva molto trucchi

far nascere pulcini compito

adeguatamente non riesce

sbruffone

cortigiani

The Clever Queen

When the girl saw the eggs she at once understood what a cruel trick had been played on her, for all the eggs had been boiled! So how could chicks be hatched from them?

But she was not afraid. She quickly boiled some beans and told her father to dig a hole by the side of the road. When the King and his courtiers came riding back from the woods, she said that her father was to kneel down (doveva inginocchiarsi) beside the hole and put the beans into it. Then he had to say loudly, "Well, I hope that I shall get a good crop from these boiled beans."

When the King heard these words, he laughed in scorn.

"How can you expect a crop from boiled beans, you old fool?" he said contemptuously.

Having previously been instructed by his daughter, the old man replied carelessly, "Why not, Your Majesty? Nowadays, it seems, people can even hatch chicks from boiled eggs."

The capricious King was so pleased and amused by this reply, that he told one of the servants to give the peasant a tiny bunch of flax (un mazzettino di lino).

"Tell your daughter not to worry about hatching the chicks," he said. "She may do whatever she pleases with the eggs. But I want her to make all the sails necessary for a big ship. She is to make them from this bunch of flax and they must be ready the day after tomorrow.

perché

fagioli - scavare

raccolto

derisione

sperare sprezzantemente

divertito

vele - deve

The Clever Queen

Bring the finished sails to the palace before nightfall the day after tomorrow, unless you wish to be severely punished for all your boasting about your daughter's wisdom."

And he galloped away, followed by all the laughing courtiers.

The peasant went weeping to his daughter and told her all.

She remained quite calm and after reflecting for a moment, gave her father a tiny chip of wood.

"Go after the King, at once," she said. "You cannot hope to catch up with him of course, but if you walk fast, you can reach the palace by tomorrow morning. Give this chip of wood to the King and say that I want the royal carpenters to make me a spinning wheel and a weaving loom (ruota per filare, telaio per tessere) out of this chip of wood. Then, if the wheel and the loom are ready by tomorrow evening, I promise to spin, weave and stitch (filare, tessere e cucire) the sails within the appointed time."

When the King received this message he was so delighted by the girl's quick wit that he told her father to bring her to the palace.

When she came into his presence, he saw that she was as beautiful as she was clever. Her golden hair hung to her knees in two thick plaits, and her eyes were like deep blue sapphires, while, in spite of her poor clothes and rough, clumsy shoes, she walked and moved with the dignity of a queen and the grace of a dancer.

a meno che

saggezza

piangendo

pezzettino dietro di raggiungerlo

falegnami

stabilito

ingegno

presenza

pendevano trecce - profondi zaffiri inelegante

grazia

The Clever Queen

"There is no one like her in the world," thought the King, "and if she can answer the riddle that I will ask her, she will be my wife."

"Maiden," he asked her then, "what is it that can be heard at the greatest distance?"

And without a moment of hesitation, she replied, "A lie, Sire."

"Maiden," said the King, "you will be my wife."

She bowed low, saying simply, "If that is your will Sire, promise me one thing, on your honour of King: If one day you find that you are tired of me and banish me from your court, allow me to take with me any one thing that I may choose as a souvenir of my lost happiness."

The King laughed.

"Such a day will never come," he said. But to please her, he wrote the promise on a parchment and gave it to her to keep.

They were soon married and the King told his wife that her father, too, might come and live at the palace.

But the new queen refused this favour. Her wisdom told her that a man so full of capricious fancies as her new husband was, might at first be amused by her father's simple ways but would probably very soon become tired of them. So she felt that it would be much wiser to leave the old man in his humble cottage.

indovinello

ragazza

esitazione menzogna

desiderio Signore

mi bandisci (mi cacci)

pergamena

favore saggezza fantasie comportamento

umile

The Clever Queen

With the money that the King gave her to buy herself trinkets, she bought her father warm woollen clothes for the winter, a carpet, a big arm-chair with soft cushions, a mattress stuffed with feathers and many other comforts, so that he was far happier in his cottage than he would have been in the palace, despised by all the courtiers and laughed at by the servants.

At first the King was very happy with his new wife. From morning to night he passed his time inventing difficult questions to ask her, and delighting in her brilliant answers.

But at last, as she had foreseen, he became tired of this pastime.

Finally the day came when he ordered her to leave the palace and go back to her father's cottage - for ever.

"As you please, Sire," she said calmly. "Allow me only, I beg you, to remain here till tomorrow morning, so that we may take our evening meal together, as usual. I promise not to speak one word to you."

With cold indifference the King granted her request. So, in absolute silence, they took their last meal together.

When the last course had been served, the king got up, with a yawn, and went to his bedroom. He suddenly felt very weary.

The moment that his head touched the pillow, he fell asleep.

gingilli tappeto imbottito piume

disprezzato

previsto

concesse

pietanza sbadiglio stanco guanciale si addormentò

The Clever Queen

After some hours had passed, a gleam of candlelight woke him. Slowly he sat up, rubbing his eyes.

But what had happened? How had his great bedroom become so small? Where were the splendid paintings? Where was the magnificent furniture?

"Where am I?" cried the King.

Then he saw that his wife was kneeling beside the bed. She was once again dressed in her simple peasant's clothes, and in her hand she held a roll of parchment.

"Do not be angry, dearest husband," she said sweetly. "Read here, on this parchment, your written promise. You said that if you ever banished me, you would allow me to take away with me whatever thing I liked most in the palace. I neither like nor love anything in the whole world as much as I love you. So tonight I put a sleeping powder in your wine, so that you might not wake as the carriage brought you here to my father's cottage. A King may not break his word (mancare di parola). I have taken the thing that I like most. Will you not let me keep it?"

The King suddenly felt his hard, proud heart melting at the thought of the devotion with which she had repaid his cruelty. And he was delighted too, to see that even in such a desperate moment she had been as clever as always in finding a way out of her difficulties.

barlume stropicciandosi

inginocchiata

rotolo

polvere carrozza

sciogliersi ripagato

una soluzione

The Clever Queen

"My dear, clever wife," he said tenderly, "you will indeed keep me, and I will keep you.

Tomorrow we return to the palace together."

And from that day on (da quel giorno in poi), so the story says, he loved her with all his heart, and more with every year that passed. con tenerezza

The End

Vocabulary

- 7° C	7 gradi centigradi sotto zero	
a way out	ə wei aut	una soluzione
absolutely	<u>æ</u> bsəlu:tli	assolutamente
to add	tu æd	aggiungere
air pollution	eə pəl <u>u:</u> ∫ən	inquinamento atmosferico
amused	əm <u>ju:</u> zd	divertito
ankle	<u>æ</u> ŋkəl	caviglia
anticyclone	<u>æ</u> ntis <u>ai</u> kloun	anticiclone
apart from	əp <u>a:</u> t from	oltre a
appointed	əp <u>oi</u> ntid	stabilito
to argue	tu <u>a:gj</u> u:	discutere
arithmetic	ər <u>i</u> ðmətik	aritmetica
atmosphere	<u>æ</u> tməsfiə	atmosfera
to attach	tu ət <u>æ</u> t∫	attaccare, legare
avalanche	<u>æ</u> vəla:nt∫	valanga
average	<u>æ</u> vərid3	medio
bachelor	b <u>æ</u> t∫ələ	scapolo
to banish	tu b <u>æ</u> ni∫	bandire
bank	b <u>æ</u> ŋk	riva
bargain	b <u>a:</u> gin	affare (acquisto vantaggioso)
bargain sale	b <u>a:g</u> in seil	vendita promozionale
beans	bi:nz	fagioli
below	bil <u>ou</u>	sotto
to bend	tu bend	piegare
binding	b <u>ai</u> ndiŋ	rilegatura
bit	bit	pezzettino
blizzard	bl <u>i</u> zəd	tempesta di neve
blood vessel	bl <u>n</u> d v <u>e</u> səl	vaso sanguigno
boaster	b <u>ou</u> stə	sbruffone
to bow	tu bau	inchinarsi

Vocabulary

breeze bri:z brezza bright brait brillante bunch b_Ant f mazzo to burst tu b3:st scoppiare carpenter ka:pintə falegname carpet k<u>a:</u>pit tappeto carriage k<u>æ</u>rid3 carrozza cart ka:t carro to catch up tu kæt∫ ∧p raggiungere certainly s<u>3:</u>tənli certamente changeable tseind3əbl mutevole chemicals prodotti chimici kemiklz cherry t∫eri ciliegia chick t∫ik pulcino chicken coop t∫<u>i</u>kin k<u>u:</u>p pollaio to choose tu t∫u:z scegliere to classify tu klæsifai classificare clear kliə chiaro clearance kliərəns schiarita clockwise klokwaiz in senso orario cloudy klaudi nuvoloso clumsy klamzi inelegante conclusion conclusione kənklu:3ən condensed kəndenst condensato condition kəndi∫ən condizione contemptuously kəntempt∫uəsli sprezzantemente to cool tu ku:1 rinfrescare cord ko:d corda

kostju:m d3u:əlri

k<u>o</u>tid3

costume jewellery

cottage

bigiotteria

casetta di campagna

Vocabulary

counter clockwise kaunta klokwaiz in senso antiorario

courtierko:tiecortigianoto cross outtu kros autcancellarecrownkrauncoronacyclonesaiklounciclonedawndo:nalba

daylight deilait luce del giorno

debrisdeibridetritideepdi:pprofondoto despisetu dispaizdisprezzaredewdju:rugiada

dirt d3:t terra battuta; sporcizia

 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{discharge} & \text{dist} \text{fa:d3} & \text{scarica} \\ \text{discount} & \text{diskaunt} & \text{sconto} \\ \text{district} & \text{distrikt} & \text{distretto} \\ \text{dress material} & \text{dres matierial} & \text{stoffa} \\ \end{array}$

drizzle drizəl pioggerella drop drop goccia droplet droplət gocciolina dusk dask crepuscolo electricity ilektrisiti elettricità

elevator eliveita ascensore (US)

to exceed tu iksi:d eccedere exquisite ekskwizit squisito to fail tu feil non riuscire fancy fænsi fantasia favour feivə favore feather feðə piuma figure figə cifra flax flæks lino

Vocabulary

flint stone flint stoun pietra focaia flood flad inondazione fluctuation fl∧kt∫u<u>ei</u>∫ən fluttuazione fog nebbia foq for sale fə seil in vendita for the present fə ðə prezənt per adesso forecast fo:ka:st previsione to forecast tu fo:ka:st prevedere to foresee tu fo:si: prevedere frame freim cornice frost frost gelo, gelata frozen frouzən ghiacciato to gaze tu geiz fissare (la vista) gleam gli:m barlume goods gudz mercanzia, merci greis grace grazia to grant tu gra:nt concedere harmful ha:mful dannoso to hatch tu hæt∫ covare, far nascere haze heiz foschia healthy helei sano (in buona salute) heartily ha:tili vigorosamente height hait altezza hemisphere hemisfiə emisfero hesitation hesitei∫ən esitazione horizon həraizən orizzonte huge hju:d3 immenso humble hambəl umile intensity intensiti intensità

Vocabulary

ironic	air <u>o</u> nik	ironico
to kneel	tu ni:l	inginocchiarsi
lately	l <u>ei</u> tli	ultimamente
latter	l <u>æ</u> tə	ultimo
leather	l <u>e</u> ðə	pelle
level	l <u>e</u> vəl	livello
liar	l <u>ai</u> ə	bugiardo
light	lait	leggero; luce
likely	l <u>ai</u> kli	probabile
low	lou	basso
low-pressure	l <u>ou</u> -pr <u>e</u> ∫ə	bassa pressione
maiden	m <u>ei</u> dən	ragazza
manner	m <u>æ</u> nə	comportamento
mass	mæs	massa
to melt	tu melt	sciogliere -si
mind	maind	mente
mist	mist	foschia
mood	mu:d	umore
most of	moust ov	la maggior parte di
mostly	m <u>ou</u> stli	principalmente
noble	n <u>ou</u> bəl	nobile (agg.)
northern	n <u>o:</u> ðən	settentrionale
to obscure	tu obskj <u>uə</u>	oscurare
to occur	tu ək <u>3:</u>	occorrere, accadere
opaque	oup <u>ei</u> k	opaco
outdoor	autd <u>o:</u>	all'aperto
overcast	<u>ou</u> vək <u>a:</u> st	coperto (cielo)
parchment	p <u>a:</u> t∫mənt	pergamena
partial	p <u>a:</u> ∫el	parziale
particle	p <u>a:</u> tikəl	particella

Vocabulary

pastries peistriz pasticcini patch pæt∫ chiazza contadino peasant p<u>e</u>zənt period periodo piəriəd pillow p<u>i</u>lou guanciale plainly pl<u>ei</u>nli chiaramente plait plæt treccia poor scarso; povero puə precipitation pris<u>i</u>pit<u>ei</u>∫ən precipitazione to predominate tu pridomineit predominare presence prezens presenza pressure pr<u>e</u>∫ə pressione price tag prais tæg cartellino del prezzo purchase p3:t∫is acquisto to purchase tu p<u>3:</u>t∫is acquistare range reind3 raggio to reduce tu ridju:s ridurre reduced ridju:st ridotto reduction rid∧k∫ən riduzione reflection riflek [ən riflesso refraction rifræk∫ən rifrazione remark rima:k osservazione riddle indovinello ridəl to rise tu raiz sorgere rock rok roccia roll roul rotolo to rotate tu routeit ruotare to rub tu rab stropicciare running water ranin wo:tə acqua corrente sale seil vendita; svendita

Vocabulary

sapphire sæfaiə zaffiro scorn sko:n derisione seasonal si:zənəl stagionale to sell off tu sel of svendere; liquidare sentimental sentimentale sentimental series s<u>iə</u>ri:z serie severe siv<u>iə</u> rigido ∫<u>o</u>pki:pə shopkeeper negoziante shower ∫auə acquazzone sight sait vista sire saiə signore to slide tu slaid scivolare slightly slaitli leggermente to slip back tu slip bæk ritornare snowstorm snou sto:m tempesta di neve southern saðen meridionale spell periodo spel to spin tu spin filare to stitch tu stit∫ cucire stock stok inventario stuffed staft imbottito substance sabstəns sostanza suitably su:təbəli adeguatamente sunrise sanraiz alba (levata del sole) sunshine s<u>∧</u>n∫ain luce del sole surface s3:fis superficie task ta:sk compito temporary t<u>e</u>mpərəri temporaneo tenderly tendəli con tenerezza term t3:m termine

Vocabulary

terrace terrace terrazza that is terrazza tiz terrazza

thick spesso (agg.)

thief $\theta i:f$ ladro thieves $\theta i:vz$ ladri

ticket t<u>i</u>kit biglietto; multa

to tidy tu taidi ordinare
tiny taini minuscolo
total toutal totale

totally toutəli totalmente touch t_At_f contatto to tremble tu trembəl tremare trick trik trucco trinket trinkit gingillo twilight twailait crepuscolo

underwear <u>Andawea</u> biancheria intima

unlikely <u>Anlai</u>kli improbabile

useless ju:sləs inutile value v<u>æ</u>lju: valore vapour veipə vapore visibility vizibiliti visibilità to weave tu wi:v tessere westerly occidentale westəli

whether weðə sia

will wil volontà
windy windi ventoso
wisdom wizdəm saggezza

wit wit ingegno - arguzia wood wud bosco, legno yawn jo:n sbadiglio