

Coffee Break **Italian Magazine**

Season 1, Lesson 1

Exercises



Task 1

In this episode, you might have noticed that an abundant use of the **indicativo imperfetto** has been made to describe how *la Bocca della Verità* was in the past. Now complete the following exercise using the correct form of the **indicativo imperfetto** of the verbs given in brackets. If it helps, before doing the exercise, you can listen to episodes 21 to 23 of Coffee Break Italian (Season 2) for review and consolidation. Once you have completed the exercise, translate each sentence into English using the space provided.

1. Martina, da piccola, (essere) _____ bionda e (avere)
_____ gli occhi azzurri.

.....

2. Gli antichi romani (amare) _____ i combattimenti dei gladiatori.

.....

3. In passato gli italiani non (andare) _____ spesso in vacanza.

.....

4. Mentre in Irlanda (piovere) _____ in Italia (splendere)
_____ il sole.

.....

5. I miei nonni (bere) _____ sempre il caffè al pomeriggio.

.....

6. Cosa (tu) (mangiare) di solito _____ quando (tu) (abitare)
_____ in Cina?

.....

7. Quando era piccolo, Luigi (dire) _____ spesso le bugie.

.....

8. Voi dove (essere) _____ ieri sera alle undici?

.....

9. In passato ai pittori inglesi (piacere) _____ andare a dipingere in
Italia.

.....

10. Quando vivevo a Roma, (fare) _____ sempre colazione al bar Trevi.

.....

Task 2

In this episode you have listened to some useful new words/phrases which you can see listed here:

anche se chissà da sola dubbio fila indiscreta
manca nascondere schiena spiegare

Use the most appropriate of these words to complete the following sentences. Once you have finished the exercise, translate each sentence into English using the space provided.

1. L'insegnante di storia adora _____ il Risorgimento.

.....

2. _____ domani piove, noi andiamo comunque in montagna.

.....

3. Luisa va sempre in vacanza _____.

.....

4. Mia zia ha spesso un mal di _____ insopportabile.

.....

5. Posso farti una domanda un po' _____?

.....

6. _____ se Babbo Natale arriva quest'anno!

.....

7. Ho un _____: Lugano è in Italia o in Svizzera?

.....

8. Siamo quasi tutti, ma _____ ancora Alberto.

.....

9. Dove possiamo _____ i nostri gioielli?

.....

10. Mi scusi, devi rispettare la _____!

.....

Answer Key

Task 1

1. era, aveva
2. amavano
3. andavano
4. pioveva, splendeva
5. bevevano
6. mangiavi, abitavi
7. diceva
8. eravate
9. piaceva
10. facevo

Task 1 - suggested translations

1. As a child, Martina, was blonde and had blue eyes.
2. The ancient Romans loved (used to love) gladiator fights.
3. In the past the Italians did not often go (did not use to go, would not go) on holiday.
4. While in Ireland it was raining, in Italy the sun was shining.
5. My grandparents used to always drink (would always drink, were always drinking) coffee in the afternoon.
6. What were you usually eating (would you eat, did you use to eat) when you were living in China.
7. As a child, Luigi was always telling (would always tell, used to always tell) lies.
8. Where were you yesterday evening at eleven o'clock?
9. In the past, English painters liked (used to like, would like) to go and paint in Italy.
10. When I was living (lived) in Rome, I was always having I would always have, I used to have) breakfast in bar Trevi.

Task 2

1. spiegare
2. anche se
3. da sola
4. schiena
5. indiscreta
6. chissà
7. dubbio
8. manca
9. nascondere
10. fila

Task 2 - suggested translations

1. The History teacher loves explaining the Risorgimento.
2. Even if it rains tomorrow, we are going to the mountain anyway.
3. Luisa always goes on holiday on her own.
4. My aunt often has (an) unbearable back pain.
5. Can I ask you an indiscreet question?
6. Who know if Santa is coming this year!
7. I have a doubt: is Lugano in Italy or in Switzerland.
8. It's almost all of us, but Alberto is still missing (Alberto is not here yet).
9. Where can we hide our jewels?
10. Excuse me, you must respect (observe) the queue!

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