Università di Firenze Dipartimento di Formazione, Lingue, Intercultura, Letterature e Psicologia

L-11 Corso di Studio in Lingue, Letterature e Studi Interculturali II anno Lingua Inglese 2 (12 cfu)

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

**diagnostic test 2**\*-possible solutions

Instructions: Translate the following sentences into appropriate English.

1. Tradurre è scrivere. (“Traduire, c'est écrire”, [Marguerite Yourcenar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/marguerite_yourcenar))

Translating is writing.

2. Chi non può scrivere, traduce. (John Denham, 1648)

Those/(The) People who/that cannot write(,) translate.

3. L'originale è infedele alla traduzione. ("El original no es fiel a la traducción." Jorge Luis Borges, 1952)

The original is unfaithful/untrue//is not faithful to the/its translation.

4. I traduttori sono pagati male e traducono peggio. (Antonio Gramsci)

Translators are badly/(poorly) paid (badly)/(underpaid) and translate (even) worse.

5. La traduzione è l'arte del fallimento. (Umberto Eco)

Translation/Translating is the art of failure/failing.

6. “Che cosa fa tua moglie?” “Fa l’assistente sociale.”

“What does your wife do?” “She’s a social worker.”

7. “Che fai?” “Controllo la posta elettronica.”

“What are you doing?” “I’m checking my/(the) email.”

8. Che cosa succede? Perché piangono tutti?

What’s happening/going on? Why is everybody/everyone crying?

9. Succede sempre così.

That’s/This is the way it always happens./It always happens/goes like this/that.

10. Sembri triste. A cosa pensi?

You look/seem sad. What are you thinking about?/What’s on your mind?/What’s troubling you?

11. Sono qui da venti minuti e l’autobus non è ancora arrivato.

I’ve been here (for) twenty minutes and the bus has still not arrived/has not arrived yet.

12. Alla fine è arrivato alle 18. Finally/In *(not At)* the end/Eventually it arrived at 6 pm.

13. “Da quanto tempo vivi in questo appartamento?” “Da circa un anno.”

“How long have you been living/have you lived in this apartment/flat (BE)?” “For about a/one year.”

14. Quando mi hai chiamato, dormivo ancora. When you called me, I was still sleeping/asleep.

15. L’India è una repubblica dal 1950. India has been a republic since 1950.

16. Aspettiamo quei soldi dall’anno scorso. We have been waiting for that money since last year.

17. Quanto avete pagato l’albergo? (*When?)* How much did you pay for the hotel?

18. Sto ancora leggendo quel romanzo. Lo sto leggendo da più di un mese.

I’m still reading that novel. I have been reading it for more than/over a month.

19. L’ultima traduzione l’ho finita ieri sera. I finished the last translation last night/yesterday evening.

20. Mi potresti ricordare chi ha scritto *Cuore di tenebre?*

*The titles of novels/books in italics; short stories in quotation marks. All lexical items/content words capitalized in translations as well as the 1st word.*

Could you remind me who wrote *Heart of Darkness?*

To remind someone (of something)

To remember/recall/recollect something

21. Il medico gli ha suggerito di ridurre i cibi grassi.

The doctor suggested (that) he cut down on/reduce fatty foods/food.

he should (BE) cut down on/cuts (?) down on

22. La frutta fa bene alla salute. Fruit is good for your/one’s health/is healthy/is good for you.

23. “Com’era il film?” “Abbastanza buono, ma non lo rivedrei.”

24. Le ultime notizie non sono molto buone. The latest news is not very good.

25. Più studi durante il semestre, meno dovrai studiare la settimana prima degli esami.

The more you study during the semester, the less you will have to study the week before (the) exams.

26. Ho perso l’autobus delle 17.00, ma sono riuscita comunque ad arrivare in orario.

I missed the 5 pm bus, but nevertheless/in any case I managed/was able to arrive/succeeded in arriving on time (anyway/in any case). N.B. not *could*

27. Quando vivevo da solo, mangiavo solo cibo in scatola.

When I lived/used to live alone/by myself/on my own, I ate/used to eat/would eat only canned (NAE)/tinned (BE) food//food in cans/tins.

28. Pioveva forte quando uscii di casa.

It was raining hard/heavily//pouring (rain) when I left (my) home/my house.

29. Fammi tentare di aiutarti prima di abbandonare gli studi.

Let me try to/and help you before giving up (on)/abandoning/quitting your studies.

before you quit

30. Ho fatto aggiustare la mia macchina. I got/had my car repaired/fixed.

31. Come possono i genitori fare in modo che i figli leggano di più?

How can parents get their children to read more?

have their children read more?

32. Mio padre mi ha fatto chiedere scusa per quello che ho detto.

My father made/had me//got me to apologize/say I was sorry for what I said.

33. I miei genitori mi fanno andare alla festa. My parents are letting me go to the party.

*Far fare qualcosa a qualcuno.*

e.g. *Gli ho fatto riparare la mia macchina.*

I made him fix/repair my car. to force/oblige

I got him to fix my car. to convince

I let him repair my car. to permit

I had him fix my car. more neutral

34. Se fossi in voi, non sprecherei il mio tempo su Facebook.

If I were you, I would not waste my time on Facebook.

35. Se non avessi fretta, ti accompagnerei a casa in macchina.

If I were not in a hurry, I would drive you home/take you home by car.

36. Avessi saputo che è sposato a un’italiana, gli avrei dato un articolo da farle tradurre.

If I had known/Had I known (that) he was married to an Italian, I would have given him an article to have her translate/for her to translate.

37. Ci dissero che sarebbero arrivati in ritardo.

They told us (that) they would/were going to arrive late.

38. Se avessi saputo perché se ne era andata, te l’avrei detto.

If I had known/Had I known why she left/went away, I would have told you.

39. Se ne andò dicendo che non sarebbe ritornato mai più.

He left saying that he would never again come back/return (again).

40. “Se non fosse stato per il rock, non avrei mai saputo che c’era vita su questo pianeta.”

(Lou Reed)

If it had not been/had it not been for rock, I would never have known (that) there was life on this planet.

\*N.B. Some of the material has been adapted from Michael Vince, *Inside Grammar* (Oxford: Macmillan, 2005).