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 1 - answers**

Instructions: Translate the following sentences into appropriate English.

1. Imparare a parlare è imparare a tradurre.

To learn/Learning (how) to speak/talk is to learn/learning (how) to translate.

2. Tradurre letteratura è come fare sesso: meglio parlarne di meno e farlo meglio.

Translating literature is like having sex: better to talk less about it (less) and do it better.

(*not* better talk less…)

3. Il film che ho visto ieri verrà riproiettato stasera. on again

The film/movie which/that/-- I saw yesterday will be reshown/shown again this evening/tonight.

is being

- intended audience? British/N.American English? *film/movie*

- defining relative clause (impersonal object pronoun)

- possible: *which/that/--*

- the object pronoun can be omitted

- no comma between a noun and a defining relative clause

- verb tense: simple past

- no future tense in English, only past & present

- numerous ways to express future time

Tomorrow I am to go to Rome. “to be to”

Tomorrow I go to Rome.

Tomorow I am going to Rome.

Tomorrow I am going to go to Rome. “to be going to”

Tomorrow I will go to Rome. spontaneous decisions/confident predictions

4. Abbiamo visto tre documentari questa settimana e oggi è solo mercoledì!

We’ve seen three documentaries this week and today (it) is/it’s only/just Wednesday!

- verb tense: present perfect

- register: informal? contraction

5. John: Che fai? Marilyn: Leggo il giornale.

John: What are you doing? Marilyn: I’m reading the (news)paper.

- verb tense: present continuous

- register: informal? contraction

6. John: Che fai quando piove? Marilyn: Prendo l’autobus.

John: What do you do when it rains? Marilyn: I take/(catch) the bus.

- verb tense: simple present

7. Fumavo da giovane ma adesso ho smesso per fortuna.

I used to smoke/smoked when I was young but now I’ve stopped/given it up luckily.

quit (not quitted) fortunately.

* verb tenses: *used to,*  present perfect
* to quit/quit/quit (also quitted BE for leave a place), but (esp. NAmE) to stop doing something, esp. something bad.

Fumavo. (context?)

I was smoking.

I smoked.

I used to smoke. /used to/ is not /to be used/accustomed to/ “I used to smoke.” is not “I’m used to smoke.”

I would smoke. Habitual, reiterative use of “would”

I had smoked. Duration form

I had been smoking. Duration form

8. Sabato mattina quando ero piccolo ci alzavamo tutti presto e andavamo a pescare.

(On) Saturday morning(s) when I was young/little/a child we would/(used to) all get up/we all got up early and go/went fishing.

- verb tenses: *would* (or *used to); simple past.*

9. Vivevo in Italia da 2 mesi quando lo conobbi.

I had been living/(had lived) in Italy for 2 months when I met him.

- verb tenses: past perfect continuous (or past perfect)

10. Quando sono arrivati, parlavo al telefono con il mio avvocato.

When they arrived, I was speaking/talking on the (tele)phone with my lawyer.

- verb tenses: simple past; past continuous

11. I giovani non ascoltano i vecchi.

The young/Young people/(The youth) do not listen to the old/old people/the elderly/elderly people.

*- the* + adjective to represent the whole class/group described by the adjective.

12. Quando John vide la sorella e il marito, tolse il cappello e scosse la testa.

When John saw his sister and her husband, he took off his hat (off) and shook his head.

- article with relatives, clothes, parts of the body

13. E’ arrivato il direttore\* (\*di un’azienda).

The manager has arrived.

- English usually lacks the option of fronting the verb in declaratives.

- the auxiliary verb in the present perfect is always *have* in English.

- the transparent translation of *direttore/director* usually rejected in favor of an alternative such as

*manager.*

- verb tense: present perfect or simple past?

14. Chi ha fatto la cena ieri sera?

Who made (the) dinner last night/yesterday evening?

- question form when interrogative pronoun is subject of sentence

- verb *fare*

15. Il famoso attore shakespeariano inglese Edmund Kean nacque a Parigi, dove il padre faceva il direttore d’orchestra e la madre era cantante lirica, nel 1787.

The famous English Shakespearian actor Edmund Kean was born in 1787 in Paris, where his father was an orchestra conductor/director and his mother (was) an opera singer.

- adjectival order

- nascere/to be born

- *fare una professione*

- article

- syntax (word order: *nel 1787)*

16. Dov’è andata tutta quella gente seduta in fondo?

Where have all those people (gone) (who/that were) seated/sitting in (the) back gone?

- position of noun phrase

17. Gli ho chiesto qual era il suo problema.

I asked him what his problem was.

- syntax (word order for indirect questions)

18. Solo chi aveva prenotato in anticipo è potuto entrare.

Only/Just those/the people who/that (had) reserved/booked in advance/beforehand could/were able to/managed to enter/(come/go/get in)/(get in).

- defining relative clause (personal subject pronoun)

- *solo chi: only those who/that*

- register: *Only he/she/they who* too formal

- *entrare: go* or *come*

19. Mio padre che è un pastore battista abita a New York.

My father, who is a Baptist minister/pastor, lives in N.Y.

- non-defining relative clause (personal subject pronoun) : only who & commas

20. Il poliziotto che ho visto era in fondo all’assemblea.

The policeman whom/who/that/-- I saw was in/at the back of the assembly.

- defining relative clause (personal object pronoun)

- possible: whom/who/that/--

- no comma between a noun and a defining relative clause

- register: *whom* very formal

21. La scala sulla quale mi stavo arrampicando cominciò a scivolare.

The ladder on which I was climbing began to slip.

The ladder that/which/-- I was climbing (on/up) started slipping.

- defining relative clause (impersonal object pronoun of a preposition)

- register: preposition + *which* is formal

- usually *that/which/--* with preposition at end of clause after verb

22. Amanda, che aveva guidato tutto il giorno, suggerì di fermarci.

Amanda, who had driven/been driving all day, suggested (that) we (should) stop/(suggested stopping).

the whole/entire day,

- non-defining relative clause (personal subject pronoun) : only who & commas

23. Michael, che nessuno aveva sospettato, risultò colpevole.

Michael, whom/(who) no one/nobody suspected, turned out/proved to be/ended up being guilty.

- non-defining relative clause (personal object pronoun) : *whom* is standard (correct) form, *who* is often used esp. in conversation, & commas

24. Ieri John disse che mi avrebbe aiutato stasera.

Yesterday John said (that) he would/was going to help me this evening.

(direct discourse: Yesterday John said: “I will/am going to help you tomorrow evening.”)

- verb tense: future in the past: He said: “I will come Tuesday.” He said that he would come Tuesday.

Past conditional: expresses a future in the past (a) or an unreal impossible hypothesis about something which did not occur in the past (b)

1. Ieri sera lei ha detto che stamattina sarebbe venuta.

Yesterday evening she said: “I will come tomorrow morning.”

Yesterday evening she said that she would come this morning.

1. Sarebbe venuta ieri pomeriggio se l’avesse saputo.

Yesterday afternoon she would have come if she had known.

25. Se l’avessi saputo, non sarei venuto.

If I had known, I would not have come.

- verb tense: past unreal conditional

26. Sono sempre indaffarato e quindi ho poco tempo libero.

I’m always busy and so I have little free/spare time.

- *little*  not *a little* (negative idea: not much)

- register: informal? contraction

27. Sono riuscito a risparmiare un po’ di soldi.

I’ve managed to save/I’ve succeeded in saving/I’ve been able to save a little/some money.

- *a little*  not *little* (positive idea: some)

- register: informal? contraction

- *could* in the past

- always in the negative or with “sense” verbs

- in the affirmative, only with general abilities in the past

28. È fortunata, ha pochi problemi.

She is lucky/fortunate. She has few/doesn’t have many problems.

- punctuation: full stop/period not comma (“run-on sentence”)

- *few*  not *a few* (negative idea: not many)

29. È depressa, ha un po’ di problemi.

She is depressed. She has a few/some problems/(troubles).

- punctuation: full stop not comma

- *a few* not *few* (positive idea: some)

30. La legge, nella sua maestosa equanimità, proibisce sia ai ricchi che ai poveri di dormire sotto i ponti (Anatole France).

The law, in its majestic equality/impartiality/equanimity, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep/from sleeping prohibits (the) rich and (the) poor alike from sleeping

under bridges. both (the) rich and (poor)