

P. Jennings: So, finally from us this evening, trying to bring the Italians along. Having lived in Italy on assignment some years ago, we know that when Italians take to the road, (1. _____), even creative, one might say. When the government made seat belts compulsory, well . . . Now, it's helmets for those who ride scooters 5 and motorbikes. ABC's Jim Wooten reports from Rome.

J. Wooten: Even in the Eternal City, (2. _____). This was yesterday. This is today, when every Italian on every one of the country's 10 million motorbikes and mopeds must wear *il casco*—a helmet—or pay a fine, and Rome's police are aggressively enforcing 10 the new law, (3. _____) the helmets just aren't fashionable.

In just the last two years, nearly 2,000 Italians have been killed in accidents related to motorbikes, motor scooters, and motorcycles. Many were kids, most without helmets. That, say the 15 authorities, is reason enough to forget about fashion and make helmets mandatory.

But try telling that to Francesco. 'It's stupid,' he says. He got caught red-handed—or bare-headed. So did this guy. And this one forgot his helmet. 'All kinds of excuses,' the officer says. One fel- 20 low told him his cat used his helmet as a litter box.

A government media blitz has been touting helmets as *benissimo*, wonderful, but it doesn't show anybody wearing one.

'Helmets,' sniffs Elena, 'aren't exactly the rage.'

(4. _____). Aesthetics. Imagine Audrey 25 Hepburn in a helmet. For most Italians, unimaginable.

C. Macri: Because they want to show their face. The—the Italian people is beautiful.

J. Wooten: But today, most riders were obeying the law, if reluctantly. And remember Francesco? (5. _____). So, he's not 30 riding his bike without a helmet any more, sort of. Jim Wooten, ABC News, Rome.

trying to bring the Italians along 「(ヘルメット着用など安全面で) イタリア人たちも世界の流れに遅れないようしている」 **on assignment** 「仕事で」 **take to the road** 「出かける」 **Eternal City** 「永遠の都: Romeの異名」 **mopeds** 「モペット: 軽量で低速走行用の補助エンジン(50cc未滿)付き自転車」 **make helmets mandatory** 「ヘルメット着用を義務づける」 **caught red-handed—or bare-headed** 「caught red-handedは現行犯で捕まるという意味。caught bare-headedは、そのもじりでヘルメット非着用で捕まること」 **his cat used his helmet as a litter box** 「猫がヘルメットをゴミ箱代わりに使っている(という訳の分からない言い訳)」 **government media blitz** 「集中的に流される政府の公共コマーシャル」 **it doesn't show anybody wearing one** 「(コマーシャルには)ヘルメットを着用している人は出てこない」 **sniffs** 「(鼻をフンといわせて) 不満そうに言う」 **the rage** 「人気; ブーム」 **sort of** 「たぶん」

EXERCISES

A) Listen to the tape and fill in the blanks in the text.

B) Multiple Choice Questions

1. Italy's new helmet law
 - a) is being ignored by the media.
 - b) is being ignored by most Italians.
 - c) is being obeyed by most Italians.
2. Rome's new law
 - a) is not being strictly enforced yet.
 - b) only applies to those driving scooters.
 - c) was made to save lives.
3. Some Italian people are disobeying the new law because
 - a) helmets are uncomfortable.
 - b) helmets are not fashionable.
 - c) Audrey Hepburn never wore a helmet.
4. Which excuse is *NOT* given in the news story for failure to wear a helmet?
 - a) It makes your hands red.
 - b) It hides your face.
 - c) The cat was using it.

C) Translate the following Japanese into English. Then listen to the tape and practice the conversation with your partner.

A: Put on your helmet, Francesca.

B: I hate this thing! It's totally unfashionable.

A: 1. もし警察が着用していないのを見つけたら、あなたは罰金を払わなければなりません。

B: I know. 2. 先週、2回つかまりました。

A: Don't be so stubborn. 3. ヘルメットなしで運転するのは危険です—and expensive!

D) Summary Practice: *Fill in the blanks with suitable words beginning with the letters indicated.*

The city of (R) has a new helmet law which will effect the riders of (t m) motorbikes and scooters. Helmets are now (m) and the local police are strictly (e) the new law. People caught without helmets—and there have been many—must pay a (f). Italian people don't like the law because they find the helmets (u).

E) Discussion: *Share your ideas and opinions with your classmates.*

1. Compare the helmet laws in your country with the laws in Italy. Do you think they are reasonable?
2. Have any new laws been passed recently in your area? How do most people feel about them?

Useful Grammar from the News ————— 現在形や進行形の多用

最新のニュースを伝えるという、テレビニュースの即時性を考えれば現在形が多いことは容易に予想される。以前調べたデータでは現在形と、現在進行形で 46% を占めていることが分かった。現在形の多用は臨場感を生み出す。

The world's largest carmakers **say** they **are going to** lower the frame on sport utility vehicles . . . (7. *Teen Drivers*, p.34 l.1)

. . . , and Rome's police **are** aggressively **enforcing** the new law, . . . (2. *Italian Helmet Law*, p.9 l.10)

Americans now **spend** more time on the job than workers in any other developed country. (14. *The Netherlands*, p.71 l.2)