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## Berlusconi scandal deepens

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**16th March, 2011**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

More news has been released about Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. Italy's 74-year-old leader is accused of having sex with a 17-year-old prostitute. This is illegal in Italy. Mr. Berlusconi has denied ever having sex with Moroccan belly-dancer Karima El-Mahroug, known as Ruby the Heart Stealer. Ms El-Mahroug says she has never worked as a prostitute nor had sexual relations with Mr. Berlusconi. The pair say they did spend time together talking about politics until three o'clock in the morning.

Silvio Berlusconi is no stranger to Italy's courts. He has been called in front of Italian judges dozens of times. He always says he is the victim of campaigns to dirty his name and remove him from power. He has been accused of tax fraud, false accounting and bribery, among other things. He has always denied any wrongdoing and has never been found guilty. Mr. Berlusconi estimated that in the past two decades he has appeared in court 2,500 times in 106 trials, at a cost of 200m euros (US\$280 million).

# PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. More news has                | a. 17-year-old prostitute |
| 2. accused of having sex with a | b. time together          |
| 3. never worked                 | c. in the morning         |
| 4. sexual                       | d. as a prostitute        |
| 5. The pair say they did spend  | e. been released          |
| 6. three o'clock                | f. relations              |

## Paragraph 2

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Berlusconi is no stranger | a. of campaigns      |
| 2. dozens of                 | b. to Italy's courts |
| 3. he is the victim          | c. in court          |
| 4. dirty his name and remove | d. any wrongdoing    |
| 5. He has always denied      | e. him from power    |
| 6. he has appeared           | f. times             |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

More news \_\_\_\_\_ about Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. Italy's 74-year-old leader \_\_\_\_\_ sex with a 17-year-old prostitute. This is illegal in Italy. Mr. Berlusconi has \_\_\_\_\_ sex with Moroccan belly-dancer Karima El-Mahroug, known as Ruby the Heart Stealer. Ms El-Mahroug says she has \_\_\_\_\_ prostitute nor had sexual relations with Mr. Berlusconi. The pair say \_\_\_\_\_ together talking about politics until three \_\_\_\_\_.

Silvio Berlusconi \_\_\_\_\_ Italy's courts. He has been called in front of Italian judges dozens of times. He always says \_\_\_\_\_ campaigns to dirty his name and remove him from power. He \_\_\_\_\_ tax fraud, false accounting and bribery, \_\_\_\_\_. He has always denied any wrongdoing and \_\_\_\_\_ guilty. Mr. Berlusconi estimated that in the past two decades he \_\_\_\_\_ court 2,500 times in 106 trials, at a cost of 200m euros (US\$280 million).

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

More news has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ about Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. Italy's 74-year-old leader is accused of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ sex with a 17-year-old prostitute. This is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in Italy. Mr. Berlusconi has denied ever having sex with Moroccan belly-dancer Karima El-Mahroug, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ as Ruby the Heart Stealer. Ms El-Mahroug says she has never worked as a prostitute (5) \_\_\_\_\_ had sexual relations with Mr. Berlusconi. The pair say they did (6) \_\_\_\_\_ time together talking about politics until three o'clock in the morning.

Silvio Berlusconi is no (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to Italy's courts. He has been called in (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of Italian judges dozens of times. He always says he is the victim of campaigns to dirty his name and remove him from power. He has been accused (9) \_\_\_\_\_ tax fraud, false accounting and bribery, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ other things. He has always denied any wrongdoing and has never been (11) \_\_\_\_\_ guilty. Mr. Berlusconi estimated that in the past two decades he has appeared in court 2,500 times in 106 trials, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a cost of 200m euros (US\$280 million).

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                |               |               |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) releases   | (b) releasing | (c) released  |
| 2.  | (a) having     | (b) has       | (c) had       |
| 3.  | (a) illegality | (b) illegal   | (c) legalize  |
| 4.  | (a) knows      | (b) known     | (c) knowing   |
| 5.  | (a) nor        | (b) not       | (c) never     |
| 6.  | (a) give       | (b) do        | (c) spend     |
| 7.  | (a) stranger   | (b) strange   | (c) strangely |
| 8.  | (a) behind     | (b) before    | (c) front     |
| 9.  | (a) by         | (b) of        | (c) to        |
| 10. | (a) between    | (b) from      | (c) among     |
| 11. | (a) find       | (b) found     | (c) finds     |
| 12. | (a) at         | (b) on        | (c) by        |

# SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. news has been aeedlers
2. sucdcea of having sex
3. ndiede ever having sex
4. epdns time together
5. sexual risotnlae
6. three o'clock in the onmrngi

## Paragraph 2

7. no ragsetrn to Italy's courts
8. znsedo of times
9. idrty his name
10. idndee any wrongdoing
11. in the past two escdaed
12. ppeaarde in court

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) leader is accused of having sex with a 17-year-old prostitute. This is illegal in Italy. Mr. Berlusconi has
- ( **1** ) More news has been released about Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. Italy's 74-year-old
- ( ) him from power. He has been accused of tax fraud, false accounting and bribery, among other
- ( ) guilty. Mr. Berlusconi estimated that in the past two decades he has appeared in
- ( ) Silvio Berlusconi is no stranger to Italy's courts. He has been called in front of Italian judges dozens
- ( ) things. He has always denied any wrongdoing and has never been found
- ( ) of times. He always says he is the victim of campaigns to dirty his name and remove
- ( ) as Ruby the Heart Stealer. Ms El-Mahroug says she has never worked as
- ( ) time together talking about politics until three o'clock in the morning.
- ( ) a prostitute nor had sexual relations with Mr. Berlusconi. The pair say they did spend
- ( ) court 2,500 times in 106 trials, at a cost of 200m euros (US\$280 million).
- ( ) denied ever having sex with Moroccan belly-dancer Karima El-Mahroug, known

# WORD JUMBLE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110316-berlusconi.html>

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. - Having a year prostitute with -. old sex 17

---

2. Italy in illegal is This.

---

3. has She prostitute a as worked never.

---

4. they did The spend pair time say together.

---

5. o'clock about in politics the until morning 3 Talking

---

6. courts Italy's to stranger no is Berlusconi.

---

7. called of been front judges has in Italian He.

---

8. name campaigns to The dirty victim his of.

---

9. wrongdoing He always any has denied.

---

10. court 2,500 He in , appeared times has.

---



## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. SILVIO BERLUSCONI:** Search the Internet and find more information about Silvio Berlusconi. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Silvio Berlusconi. Include imaginary interviews with Italians. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Silvio Berlusconi. Ask him three questions about this story. Give him three of your opinions on Silvio Berlusconi. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.