

This is a learner diary that I would like you to use during this course. It has two main purposes:

1. to record what you think you learn during class, for example new vocabulary, a new expression, correct pronunciation, something new about verb forms, etc.
2. to record what you do in your free time to expose yourself to English, for example watch a movie in English, listen to the radio in English, write an email in English, etc.

Please try to add some information every day or every other day.

We will also sometimes use this diary for writing activities that I can then correct.

My name is Alessandro.

I'm 45.

I live in Padova; I have two sons and a wife.

I got married in 2001.

I play the piano and I like playing it with my friends.

I like sports: football, tennis and running.

I like reading books but I read more books in the summer season when I am on holiday.

I'm in piazza Duomo .

I go left and then turn right, go straight ahead on via Marin, go past Piazza delle Erbe and a little church on my right. I reach a cross street. I turn right and go straight ahead on via Roma about two hundred meters. Then I cross a bridge and go straight ahead on via Vittorio Emanuele IInd until I reach a big square, Prato della Valle.

I turn left and walk under arcade, go straight and reach a cross. I turn left on via Belludi, then I go straight on until a famous Church of Padova and a

When I was a teenager I used to spend a part of my summer holiday with a group of boys and girls my age.

These holidays were organized by a recreation center where my father worked.

It was July of 1981 and we were in a camp near Venice.

We didn't have TV but I heard about the marriage of Charles and Diana on the radio.

They got married that year. So many years have passed!

Diana died several years ago, the eldest got married and now Charles is a grandpa.

What did I do in those happy days?

I would swim and play ping pong a lot.

I would swim in the sea a lot.

Three years later we changed resort to one that was in the south of / Southern Italy.

We had changed location but I would still swim and play a lot!

We used to sleep in big tents.

In 1985 I chose an alternative summer holiday.

It was an organized kayak tour of the Venice lagoon.

The tour started near Venice and a week later we arrived in Grado, near Trieste.

We would start each morning and row for 2-3 hours, then would have a two-hour lunch break and then we would continue our tour for about two hours.

At the end of the day we would set up our small tent for the night and the morning after we would restart.

The Venice lagoon is an amazing location and I hope that my children can have this experience, when they are teenagers.

Padova, 18th of march 2014

Sara, Anna Maria and me are going to start an english conversation about our easter plans.

Sara: Ale, what are your plans for Easter?

Ale: I'd like to take a vacation work from the Easter week to 1st of May, but I'll have only one week. I think I cannot have two vacation weeks.

Anna: Ale, what did you cook for Easter lunch?

Ale: I don't have decide the menu yet, but probably I'll cook rice with fresh peas and I'll cook the rice's soup with peas' pods. I'd like cook pot roast with red wine. I'll cook hard-boiled eggs too and I'll suggest my sons to paint eggs.

Sara: I have no plans for Easter because my mother is no well and she'll go to hospital.

I suppose I remain at home or I will stay at the hospital; anyway I won't go around.

But if my mother will stay in hospital I'll go to Ale's house for eating his rice and peas.

Sara: and you Anna, will you cook some sweets?

Anna: I'll help my mum cooking some sweets from southern Italy tradition like panzerotti and cannoli.

Panzerotti are puff pastries filled with cheese and fried with hot oil.

Then I'll put the panzerotti in a mix of sugar and water and they become glazed.

Then I'll fill the cannoli with a cream of ricotta and chocolate, candied pumpkin, cinnamon and powdered sugar.

Sara: when I was eighteen I dressed a Christmas tree for Christmas but I never undressed it.

Some days before a french friend of my parent phoned us that in a few minutes they would be at our home and they saw the Xmas tree and we told them it was not a Christmas tree but a Easter tree because in the Venetian Republic there was the tradition to make Easter's trees. He believed to me and he called his relatives that we were used to make to dress a tree for Easter, unfortunately, he came in my bedroom and he will understood there wasn't an Easter tree tradition in Venetian Republic.

I'm sure all of you are familiar with [Coldplay's famous song Viva la Vida](#). But do you know what it's about? There has been a lot of discussion about the meaning behind this song. Coldplay has never given their own explanation, but the YouTube comment function on the video as well as various other forums have had a great debate about it. So...tasks always at hand...

1. This song tells a story and as such makes use of the past simple, 'used to' and 'would'. Before listening to the song, see if you can guess what form of the verbs is used in the first two stanzas. Then listen and check.
2. Rhyme is also very helpful in figuring out what singers are saying. Do the second part of the same task by listening to the song (Youtube) and trying to complete the lyrics. If you can't figure it out, search for the lyrics on the Net ;-)
3. Finally, read below what some Internet users have had to say about what the song means. Read these interpretations and choose the one that you think is most plausible. Make a comment to the blog post about why you think it's plausible or what your own interpretation of the song is.

"Viva la vida" by Coldplay

Before listening, try and conjugate the verbs in parentheses in the first two stanzas.

Then, as you listen, try and complete the missing words in the rest of the lyrics. (Note: Rhyme should help!)

I used to rule the world
Seas would rise when I gave the word
Now in the morning I sleep alone
Sweep the streets I used to own

I would roll the dice
Feel the fear in my enemy's eyes
Listen as the crowd would sing,
"Now the old king is dead, long live the king!"
One minute I used to held the key
Next the walls used to be closed on me
And I used to discover that my castles stand
Upon pillars of salt and pillars of sand

I hear Jerusalem bells are ringing
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing
Be my mirror, my sword and _____?
My missionaries in a foreign field
For some reason I can't explain
Once you'd go there was never,
never an honest
And that was when I ruled the world

It was the wicked and wild ____?____
Blew down the doors to let me in
Shattered windows and the sound of drums
People couldn't believe what I'd ____?____
Revolutionaries way
For my head on a silver plate
Just a puppet on a lonely stream
Oh, who would ever wanna be king

I hear Jerusalem bells were ringing
Roman Cavalry choirs were singing
Be my mirror, my sword and ____?____
My missionaries in a foreign field
For some reason I can't explain
I know St. Peter won't call my name
Never an honest word
But that was when I ruled the world

Meaning

It's about Lucifer's fall from grace and his kingdom (earth) not really his because of God's impending judgement. He mocks Jesus saying "the old King is dead, long live the king".

I think it is about the decline of the Roman Catholic Church. At one point the church was the major world power. It had total control and during the crusades the crusaders were thought of as missionaries which would help to make sense of the chorus.

When I listen to it...it almost seems like a poetic account of George W. Bush. I mean if you apply the historic references to our world today...Just a thought. Sharing what I thought when I really listened to the lyrics. Anyone else thought the same?

Well since the cover of the CD is the French Revolution, I would guess the person is King Louis XVI, but the song can applied to any disposed political powerheads...

I think it best that you interpret the song for yourself- how it makes you feel and what it means to you. The is the biggest complement you could pay an artist!

Given that this album seems to revolve around the theme of celebrating life (Viva la Vida) and revolutions (the cover art depicts the French Revolution by Delacroix), I think this song embodies the nature of revolutions. The lyrics to this song seem to refer to revolutions in history thus far, about kings, queens, emperors, and other rulers who fall from high places after revolutions from below. The French Revolution, the Chinese Revolution, the Russian Revolution, and the British Civil Wars in the 17th century all come to mind when I hear these lyrics. Each revolution overthrew a powerful central government, with a powerful head of state in a violent and bloody

fashion (think "heads on a silver plate"). These lyrics are telling their stories from the point of view of the fallen leader, in a very poetic way, but the message is essentially "Oh, who would ever want to be king?" Because revolutions have occurred over and over in history, and they will continue to occur, but such is the story of life and of humanity.

I believe it's about Louis XVI, not Napoleon. This would best coincide with the French Revolutionary cover art, La Liberté guidant le peuple (Liberty Leading the People) commemorating the revolution. There are several similarities between the lyrics and Louis XVI.

There is a TON of spiritual imagery in this song. One that particularly caught my eye was when he refers to his castles standing "upon pillars of salt and pillars of sand". I think this possibly is a reference to the sermon on the mount where Jesus speaks of a wise man building his house on a rock while the foolish man builds his house on the sand, only to be washed away. I am not sure on most of the meaning of this song but I do think that there is a link between total power and foolishness, contrasted with the loss of power (dependence on something else?) and gaining wisdom of your situation.

I think the song is about Bin Laden, actually.... leading a bold revolution, but sweeping the floors in Afghanistan-Pakistan caves wondering about the days when his company ruled the Saudi construction industry?

you're interpreting it too deep. the whole song is just using all these great beautiful images as metaphors

I think it's about caducity of political power; "Never an honest word but that was when I ruled the world" means it's better do not believe to the don't believe to the politicians words.

3rd of april, 2014

objects	verbs	people
colors	color	model
paintbrush	sketch	painter
frame		art critic
canvas		auction house
pencils		

turpentine		
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Padova, 8th of april 2014

a. = visit family on Easter

b. = Women become priests

c. = Marry a different person

If I had married a different person, probably I wouldn't have cooked so much.

d. = Your brother/friend come out as gay

If a friend of mine came out as gay, I would be proud.

e. = Go to the hills on Easter Monday

If I went to the hills on Easter Monday , I would go by bike.

f. = Berlusconi be honest

g. = Ukraine keep Crimea

If Ukraine had kept Crimea, Russia would have attacked Ukraine

i. = Russia invade Ukraine

If Russia invaded Ukraine, it would be starting the 3rd world war

j. = The next president of the US be a woman

k. Borsellino not be killed

If Borsellino didn't have been killed, Italy would have been a better country.

a. = 1

b. = 3

c. = 3

d. = 3

e. = 2

f. = 3

g. = 2

h. = 2

i. = 2

J. = 3

Padova, 15th of april 2014

1. If I hadn't bought the lottery ticket, I wouldn't have won 1.000,00 £.
2. If the toothache continued, I would rush to the dentist.
3. I will buy a new bike to go to work if I sell my motorbike.
4. If I hadn't changed the car battery, I wouldn't have reached my destination.
5. If I hadn't shipped fast that document, you wouldn't have respected the deadline for making the application.

Well done Alessandro!

Copy the following statements into your learner diary and respond with interest using an auxiliary verb.

e.g. "The public transportation in New York is great!" - "Is it?"

Padova, 17th of April 2014

"It snowed in New York." "Didn't it?"

"There are more than 10 million people in New York." "Are there in?"

"The average person in New York speaks more than 1 language." "Does they?"

"Housing in New York is so expensive." "Isn't it?"

"Many people in New York have never been outside the US." "Haven't they?"

There are several things you know about me that are in the following statements. Copy the statements into your learner diary and make statements with a question tag based on what you know about me - and remember to use the auxiliary verb as in the example.

e.g. (You know I'm American.) You're American, aren't you?

(You know I have been to India.)

"You have been to India, haven't you?."

(You know I have two children.)

"You have got two children, haven't you?"

(You know I came to Padova in 1996.)

"Did you come to Padova in 1996, didn't you?"

(You know I love Italian food.)

"You love Italian food, don't you?."

(You know I am coming back to Padova in June.) "You're coming to Padova in June, aren't you?"

Padova, 8th of May 2014

Easter is one of the most important holidays of the year.

The Christians remember Christ resurrection, which is the faith's core.

Many people believe in Christ resurrection, but increasingly many other quit the church because it seems far-fetched.

I hope that it had really happened, but sometime I think just the opposite.

Even so the Easter day I went to the Church for participate to the religious rites.

Holy saturday I participated to the evening mass: it lasted two hours but it was very engaging.

The Easter day I met my parents; I had lunch from my mother-in-law, then I visited my mum.

The Easter monday we were invited from my sister-in-law for another lunch.

We went to a public garden in the afternoon, because she my sister-in-law has got a baby mutt and she have to take it out every day.

April 25th and may 1st are two other important holidays in Italy.

April 25th Italians remember the liberation from fascism after a long and bloody civil war.

By now, only the elder population lived those hard year, but the memory is important for us and for the next generations.

May 1st is the labor day: some rest for me and my family...

We met our friends in Abano Terme where we ate an amazing ice cream!