



Giovanni Galavotti

The Juggler



**IMPARARE
INGLESE.COM**

A1/A2

The Juggler
By Giovanni Galavotti, translated into English by Ruth Stephens
www.imparareinglese.com

The Juggler

Level A1/A2 Elementary English audio-book
by Giovanni Galavotti, translated into English by
Ruth Stephens

Acquistabile online all'indirizzo: imparareinglese.com

listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

cover design: Anya Lauri cover photo: Adriana Verolla

© Imparareinglese.com 2015

Imparareinglese.com is a trading name of Imparareonline Ltd. info@imparareonline.co.uk
Registered in England, no. 8569282, B1 Business Center, Suite 206, Davyfield Rd. Blackburn BB1
2QY

Index

1. A New City.....	4
Glossary.....	4
Exercise.....	5
2. Surprise!.....	6
Glossary.....	6
Exercise.....	7
3. The Mysterious Young Man.....	8
Glossary.....	8
Exercise.....	9
4. The Search.....	10
Glossary.....	10
Exercise.....	11
5. Leonardo.....	12
Glossary.....	12
Exercise.....	13
6. Life Stories.....	14
Glossary.....	14
Exercise.....	15
7. The Guided Tour.....	16
Glossary.....	16
Exercise.....	17
8. The Photograph.....	18
Glossary.....	18
Exercise.....	19
Solutions.....	20

1. A New City

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

Marianna is 22 years old. She comes from Siracusa in Sicily, but now lives in Bologna, where she has started studying for a Masters degree in the history of art. She chose to study in Bologna because its university is the oldest in the western world and many famous people have studied there in the past.

Early October in Bologna is still warm, so after her lessons Marianna likes to walk through the historic medieval centre – one of the biggest of its kind in the world. She walks under the porticoes which are characteristic of the city, and across Piazza Maggiore, its beautiful central square. She loves looking in the shop windows, and sometimes stops for a coffee in one of the many bars she passes.

On one such evening, Marianna takes the bus home. The long, orange bus is full of people, all squashed tightly together.

But when she arrives home Marianna discovers that her purse is missing from her bag!

She searches frantically but it's not there. Fortunately she never carries much money, and her documents can be replaced...

But what about her old photograph? It's very precious to her. She'd be so sad to lose it!

What can she do?

Glossary

Degree - laurea

chose - ha scelto

western - occidentale

warm - tiepido

square - piazza

squashed - schiacciati

purse - portafoglio (per donne)

missing – smarrito

search - cercare

frantically - freneticamente

fortunately - per fortuna

carry - portare

replaced - sostituito

precious - prezioso

sad - triste

lose – perdere

Exercise

True or False? (Vero o falso?)

1. Marianna is from Bologna.
2. She loves shopping.
3. The bus was full of people.
4. Someone stole her purse.
5. Her purse contains an important photograph.

2. Surprise!

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

Marianna lives in a small flat on the second floor of a large building in the suburbs of Bologna with three other girls, students like herself.

She is alone in her room, trying to study, but is finding it impossible to stop thinking about the photograph. This morning she reported the theft at the police station but was told it is difficult, almost impossible, to recover a lost purse.

The doorbell rings and Marianna answers via the intercom: "Yes, who is it?"

"Post," a male voice replies.

"Strange", thinks Marianna, "Post in the afternoon? It normally comes in the morning."

She decides to go and see, anyway. Then, looking out of the window, she sees a young man walking away.

His clothes are dirty and old, his hair long and untidy, and he is wearing a rucksack with some coloured sticks poking out of it.....

He certainly isn't the postman! And there is something vaguely familiar about him.

Marianna runs down the stairs but when she reaches the bottom he is already disappearing out of sight.

She opens the letterbox and stands open-mouthed in front of it. Her purse!

The small amount of money in it has gone, but everything else, including the photograph, is still there.

Marianna asks herself who can he be, this dirty, but kind young man?

Glossary

flat - appartamento

second floor - secondo piano

theft - furto

police station - questura

recover - recuperare

doorbell - campanello

intercom - citofono

male - maschile

strange - strano

anyway - comunque
untidy - trasandato
rucksack - zaino
sticks – bastoni
familiar - familiare
stairs - scale
reaches - raggiunge
bottom - fondo
disappear - sparire
letterbox - cassetta delle lettere
open-mouthed - a bocca aperta
kind – gentile

Exercise

Put the sentences in order (Metti le frasi in ordine)

1. Someone rings at her door.
2. She finds her missing purse.
3. She runs down the stairs.
4. From the window she sees a dirty young man.
5. She reported the theft of her purse to the police.

3. The Mysterious Young Man

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

That evening, Marianna is sitting at the kitchen table with her roommates. They've finished eating and Marianna is happily telling them how her purse was returned to her.

She begins to describe the young man she saw from the window: his dirty hair and clothes, and the rucksack with the coloured sticks....

"Coloured sticks?" asks Paola, one of the girls.

"Yes, why?" Marianna asks.

"Because he could be a juggler, one of those who gives shows in the streets and squares in the centre."

Marianna smiles: "Of course! A juggler!"

"Lucia," she asks another of the girls, "Can you lend me your bicycle tomorrow?"

"Sure!" replies Lucia.

"What are you going to do, Marianna?" asks Eleonora, the third girl.

"I've seen that young man in a square in the centre. I want to find him and thank him."

"Thank him? What for? It was probably him who stole your purse."

"I don't think so. Would a thief really give back what he has stolen?"

"Perhaps you're right," Eleonora agrees.

Marianna is happy. She can't wait to go out on the bicycle and look for the young man.

She'll start her search the next morning!

Glossary

evening - sera

kitchen - cucina

roommates - coninquilini, compagni di stanza

is telling - racconta

juggler - giocoliere

shows - spettacoli

smiles - sorride

of course - certo!

lend - prestare
sure - certamente
thank – ringraziare
stole - ha rubato
thief - ladro
give back - restituire
agree - accettare, essere d'accordo
can't wait - non vedo l'ora di
search - ricerca

Exercise

True or False?

1. Marianna shares a flat with other girls.
2. Paola thinks the young man could be a student.
3. Lucia agrees to lend Marianna her bicycle.
4. Marianna intends to find the young man and report him to the police.
5. She'll start looking for him in the morning.

4. The Search

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

The next morning Marianna takes Lucia's bicycle and sets off around the centre of Bologna.

She comes into the university quarter, where there are many students. Too many! And a lot of them are dressed much like the mysterious young man, only a little cleaner.

It will be difficult for Lucia to identify anyone in that crowd of people coming and going!

During her lesson, Marianna finds it impossible to follow what the professor is saying, not least because she didn't sleep last night and is very tired.

As soon as her lecture is over, instead of going for lunch, she gets the bicycle again to continue her search.

By four o'clock, Marianna has searched all of the centre and still no luck.

Before turning to go home, she decides to go for a coffee in one of her favourite bars, in Piazza Santo Stefano, the most beautiful square in the city, famous, too, as it is part of the Seven Churches complex.

While she is sitting at a table outside the bar reading a newspaper, she hears clapping.

Looking up, she sees a group of people watching something.

She gets up and goes towards themand there, right in front of her, is the mysterious young man!

He performs with the coloured sticks, then with skittles, then with balls.

He's good, that young man. Very good!

Marianna sits down in a corner of the portico to wait for the end of the show.

Glossary

next - seguente

sets off - parte

dressed - vestiti

mysterious - misterioso

cleaner - più puliti
follow - seguire
not least - non ultimo
tired - stanca
as soon as - non appena
lecture - lezione
over - finito
instead of - invece di
still - ancora
luck - fortuna
favourite - preferito
church - chiesa
while - mentre
newspaper - giornale
clapping - applaudire
look up - alzare lo sguardo
watch - guardare
get up - alzarsi
towards - verso
right in front of her - proprio davanti a lei
skittles - birilli
good - bravo
sit down - sedersi
corner - angolo
wait - aspettare

Exercise

Put the sentences in order

1. She looks for the young man before going to university.
2. She finds the young man juggling in a piazza.
3. Marianna didn't sleep well.
4. She searches in the afternoon.
5. There are too many students in the streets.

5. Leonardo

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

The juggler has finished the show.

He passes his hat around among the spectators, some of whom put coins in it.

The young man smiles as he thanks a man.

“Thank you, sir.”

Then, to a woman, “Thank you, madam.”

Eventually they all go, leaving only Marianna, who approaches the juggler.

“Thank YOU,” she says.

“Did you enjoy the show?” he asks her.

“Very much. But I must also thank you for this.”

Marianna shows him her purse, and the young man looks at her, surprised and frightened.

“I found it in a rubbish bin. I didn’t steal it! Don’t you believe me?”

“I believe you. And you have saved something in it which is very important to me.”

The young man is calmer now.

“I’m Leonardo. What about you?”

“Marianna.... Pleased to meet you. Would you like a coffee?”

“A coffee? If I drink coffee now I won’t sleep tonight. A beer would be better.”

He indicates the hat full of money. “This is on me.”

The two young people sit at a table in one of the bars that Marianna likes. Leonardo asks the waiter for a beer.

“What would you like?” he asks.

“I’ll have a beer, too, but a small one.”

“And some crisps, of course, “ he tells the waiter.

Leonardo smiles at Marianna.

She looks at him with curiosity, thinking,

“I like this young man, but what a strange life he has!

I wonder where he lives?”

Glossary

hat - cappello

spectators - spettatori

coins - monete
eventually - infine
leave - lasciare
approach - avvicinarsi
ask - chiedere
must - devo
frightened - spaventato
found - trovato
rubbish bin - bidone della spazzatura
believe - credere
save - salvare
calmer - più calmo
pleased to meet you - piacere!
would you like? - vorresti?
better - meglio
indicates - indica
this is on me - offro io
waiter - cameriere
too - anche
crisps - patatine
I wonder - chissà

Exercise

True or False?

1. Spectators put money in the young man's hat.
2. Marianna doesn't believe the young man.
3. Marianna is angry about the missing money.
4. Leonardo buys beer for each of them.
5. Marianna doesn't like Leonardo.

6. Life Stories

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

While Marianna and Leonardo are drinking their beer and eating the crisps, they talk about their lives.

Marianna tells Leonardo about Sicily and the university. "I'm studying history of art because I want to be a tourist guide in the area of Sicily where I was born and grew up."

Leonardo tells her that he is 25 and from Turin, in Piedmont. He came to Bologna a few years ago with a girlfriend but she left and went back to Turin, while he stayed in Bologna, a lovely city where you can have a good life.

Marianna is curious: "Where do you live?"

"In a community centre with a lot of other lads. But now that I have a bit of money I want to find a room in an apartment."

The bells of the Seven Churches ring: it's already 5 o'clock, time has flown. Marianna has to go home.

But before leaving she says to Leonardo:

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

And gives him a kiss on the cheek.

Leonardo blushes, but then asks "What are you doing tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow is Saturday, I don't have any lessons, I'm free."

"We could do a tour of the city. A guided tour. I'll be the guide.... Would you like that?"

"I certainly would," Marianna replies happily.

"Good. Then let's meet at 3, at the Neptune fountain."

Glossary

lives - vite

grew up - cresciuta

girlfriend - fidanzata

went back - tornata

stayed - restato

lads - ragazzi

a bit of money - un po' di soldi

a room - una camera
bells - le campane
ring - suonare
time has flown - il tempo è volato
has to - deve
kiss - bacio
blush - arrossire
free - libero
meet - incontrarsi
fountain - fontana

Exercise

Put the sentences in order

1. Marianna and Leonardo talk about their lives.
2. The church bells ring at 5 o'clock.
3. Leonardo invites Marianna for a tour of the city.
4. Marianna gives Leonardo a kiss to thank him.
5. Leonardo came to Bologna with his girlfriend.

7. The Guided Tour

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

The Neptune fountain is situated in a little square just off Piazza Maggiore.

Marianna is early, as it's still only ten to three.

While she's waiting, she looks around her. Facing her is the historic local government building, behind her is the palace of King Enzo, and to the left, the great Basilica of San Petronio, which is the fifth largest church in the world.

All were built in medieval times, and all very beautiful.

When Leonardo arrives at five to three, Marianna is stunned by the change in his appearance – he's wearing clean clothes, and his hair has been washed!

"Why are you looking at me like that?" he asks her.

"It's nothing ...you just look a bit different from yesterday."

"Better or worse?"

"Much better" says Marianna, smiling.

Leonardo smiles too. And when the bells of San Petronio start to ring he exclaims "And now for our guided tour!"

As they walk, Leonardo tells Marianna the history of the city's buildings and monuments.

They visit the historic university building, with its beautiful, contoured wooden seating.

They pass under the Due Torri, the two towers which have become the symbol of the city.

And they walk slowly through the alleys of the Mercato del Quadrilatero, which are full of the colours and aromas of the fruit, vegetables, fish and other produce piled on the stalls outside the little shops.

Here they stop for a drink in an old tavern.

This time Marianna takes her purse out of her bag to pay.

Watching her, Leonardo asks:

"What was it in your purse that was so important to you?"

Glossary

just off - a fianco di

early - in anticipo

look around - guardarsi attorno
facing - di fronte
local government - Comune
behind – dietro
largest - il più grande
built - costruito
stunned - sbalordito
appearance - aspetto
hair - capelli
different - diverso
worse - peggio
exclaims - esclama
buildings - palazzi
monuments - monumenti
wooden - di legno
seating - posti a sedere
under - sotto
become - diventati
alleys - vicoli
full of - pieno di
aromas – profumi
fish - pesce
piled - impilati
stall - banco
stop - fermarsi
tavern - bar
take out - estrarre

Exercise

True or False?

1. Marianna is early for the meeting with Leonardo.
2. Leonardo looks very different today.
3. The tour is by bicycle.
4. They have lunch in the Mercato del Quadrilatero.
5. Leonardo asks Marianna why the purse was so important.

8. The Photograph

Listen to this story at: <http://soundcloud.com/imparareinglese-com/sets/the-juggler>

When Marianna and Leonardo are sitting at a little table in the inn, with glasses of wine in front of them, Marianna replies to his question:

“A photograph.”

“A photograph?” says Leonardo in surprise.

“Yes, an old photograph. It’s of me when I was very small, with my mother.

And also my father, who died many years ago.

He travelled a lot for his work, so this is the only photograph that I have of him.

That’s why it’s so precious to me.”

“I see” says Leonardo

“Can I see it?”

Marianna looks into his eyes.

“Yes, for you, yes. But you must close your eyes.”

Leonardo closes his eyes and Marianna takes her purse out of her bag.

She takes out an old photograph from a section of the purse, and holds it in front of his eyes.

“Now you can open your eyes.”

In the photograph there is a small child in the arms of a young woman in her twenties.

They are inside a circus tent.

The child is smiling at a man in front of her.

He’s around thirty years old, with long hair and very tight clothing.

He is throwing balls high into the air above him.

He’s a juggler!

Leonardo is lost for words.

He looks at Marianna, and she smiles at him.

Glossary

glasses - bicchieri

wine - vino

died - morto

work - lavoro

I see - capisco

eyes - occhi
close - chiudere
hold - tenere
arms - braccia
in her twenties - sui vent'anni
circus - circo
tent - tenda
around - circa
tight - stretti
throw - lanciare
air - aria
high - in alto
lost for words - senza parole

Exercise

Put the sentences in order

1. Marianna explains about the photograph.
2. She shows him the photograph.
3. Leonardo wants to see the photograph.
4. Marianna's father was a juggler too!
5. Marianna asks Leonardo to close his eyes.

Solutions

Chapter 1

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. T

Chapter 2

5. 1. 4. 3. 2

Chapter 3

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T

Chapter 4

3. 1. 5. 4. 2.

Chapter 5

1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F

Chapter 6

1. 5. 2. 4. 3.

Chapter 7

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

Chapter 8

1. 3. 5. 2. 4