

C A M O U F L A G E - S A M P L E

Italian

eight of fifty

The rest live at polyglotninja.com/camouflage

abbiocco

ab-BYOK-ko

the drowsy slump that follows a big meal

Dopo la pasta mi è preso l'abbiocco.

After the pasta, the food coma hit me.

Untranslatable and inevitable. Sunday lunch comes with one included.

limonare

li-mo-NA-re

to make out, to kiss at length

Quei due limonano da mezz'ora.

Those two have been making out for half an hour.

From 'lemon'. Nobody fully agrees why, and asking three Italians gets you four theories.

rosicare

ro-zi-KA-re

to seethe with envy, to be eaten up by it

Ha vinto lui e tu rosichi.

He won and it is eating you alive.

Roman export, now national. There is no dignified way to be accused of it.

sgamare

zga-MA-re

to catch someone red-handed, to see right through them

Mia madre mi ha sgamato subito.

My mother saw through me instantly.

Once you are sgamato, no lawyer can help you.

dare buca

DA-re BU-ka

to stand someone up

Mi ha dato buca all'ultimo minuto.

She stood me up at the last minute.

Literally 'to give a hole'. The hole is in your evening.

a scrocco

a SKROK-ko

at someone else's expense; the art of freeloading

È venuto solo per mangiare a scrocco.

He only came to eat on someone else's dime.

An entire lifestyle in two words. Every group of friends keeps one specialist.

una cifra

U-na CHI-fra

a ton, a huge amount

Questo posto mi piace una cifra.

I like this place a ton.

Literally 'a figure', as in a number too large to bother saying.

fuori come un balcone

FWO-ri KO-me un bal-KO-ne

completely out of your mind

Sei fuori come un balcone.

You are completely nuts.

Out like a balcony: outside the building, yet still attached. Affectionate, mostly.
