

## WARM UP

## 1 Choose the best alternative.

- 1 Switch *on/off* lights when not required.
- 2 If the room is too hot, turn *up/down* the thermostat instead of opening the window.
- 3 If you have curtains in front of a radiator, then keep them *open/shut*.
- 4 Use your car as *much/little* as possible.
- 5 *Defrost/Clean* your fridge frequently.
- 6 When cooking, use a flame which is *bigger/smaller* than the bottom of the pot.
- 7 Don't leave electrical appliances on stand *by/up*.

## GLOSSARY

**commits:** *impegna*

**entered into force:** *è entrato in vigore*

**aims at:** *mira a*

**awareness:** *consapevolezza*

**parade:** *parata, sfilata*

## MORE ABOUT...

**Giuseppe Ungaretti** (1888-1970) was an Italian modernist poet. His poem *Mattina* (Morning) was written in the trenches during the First World War. The poem reflects Ungaretti's feelings after surviving another dangerous night during the war, recognising that while being illuminated with immensity may feel like a miracle to a soldier, it is to most people just the start of another day.

## Energy saving in Italy: *M'illumino di Meno*

*M'illumino di Meno* is a famous annual radio campaign on energy conservation, launched by the programme *Caterpillar* on Rai Radio2. This campaign gets its name from the famous verses of a poem called *Mattina* by Giuseppe Ungaretti ("M'illumino / d'immenso") and usually happens about the 16<sup>th</sup> February which coincides with the date when the Kyoto Protocol, which commits countries to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, entered into force.

This campaign aims at increasing public awareness of sustainable energy and people are invited to concentrate in an entire day all the virtuous actions which lead to a lower consumption of energy. The public is encouraged not only to reduce energy waste as much as possible, but also to choose sustainable mobility. This means getting about town on foot, by bike or using public transport rather than taking the car. The organisers also stress the importance of recycling and reuse, and many initiatives are planned throughout Italy on this day.

Since its first edition, the radio programme *Caterpillar* has managed to reach a massive public with its advice on the 'correct' consumption of energy, and many schools, shops, restaurants, pubs, libraries and institutions all over Italy have joined in their initiatives. Between 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on the day of the campaign, the public is invited to switch off any lights or electrical appliances which are not absolutely necessary. However, like every year, *M'illumino di Meno* isn't just a simple parade in the dark, but an opportunity to discuss important themes regarding not only the rational use of electricity, but also the use of renewable energy sources.

This initiative is also sustained by many national government bodies and the Emilia Romagna region comes tops for the number of activities it has organised dedicated to the *Caterpillar* campaign.

*m'illumino  
di meno*



<http://caterpillar.blog.rai.it/milluminodimeno/>

READING COMPREHENSION

2 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 Why does the radio campaign *M'illumino di Meno* usually take place on about 16<sup>th</sup> February?
- 2 On the day of the campaign, what should people do?
- 3 Why has this energy saving campaign worked so well?
- 4 Apart from switching off unnecessary lights, what else is this day important for?

LISTENING

3  8 Listen to an interview with a man talking about the *Caterpillar* radio programme which organises the campaign *M'illumino di Meno* and fill in the missing information.

**Interviewer** Well Mark, welcome to the show. So what kind of programme is *Caterpillar*?

**Mark** It's an extremely popular  
 (1) \_\_\_\_\_ radio programme which boasts more than a  
 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ listeners a day, and is  
 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. from Monday to (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

It deals with major issues in the world in an informal and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ way, pointing out the contradictions in our society.

**Interviewer** And when did they start their energy saving campaign?

**Mark** Well, it all started of course in (6) \_\_\_\_\_ with the Kyoto Protocol, and now the slogan 'I will use less light' seems to have really worked, with everybody trying their hardest to do at least something to save energy on that specific day, while the programme is on (7) \_\_\_\_\_. The most (8) \_\_\_\_\_ effect is the 'energy (9) \_\_\_\_\_' when the most important monuments in the main city squares in Italy are plunged into (10) \_\_\_\_\_.



Rome, Colosseum, 17-02-2012

SPEAKING

4  In pairs, make a list of what you and your classmates could do to save energy, then discuss your suggestions with your partner and compare them with the rest of the class'.