

Grammar review

- 1 Read the text below quickly.
- a) Answer the questions. Ignore the gaps at this stage.
 - 1 In what way has Italy changed in recent years?
 - 2 What reason is given for the situation?
 - 3 Is the same true in your country?

Baby? I'd rather have a mobile phone

Italy is going through a population crisis of extraordinary proportions. It (1) be a country (2) babies, (3) there are almost no babies around any more. In truth, many Italians are more interested (4) a mobile phone (5) a son and heir.

When I (6) a well-known maternity hospital in Rome to see some friends with their new-born baby, there were 130 cots in the place,

but only two (7) That's nothing unusual. My wife went to a clinic widely (8) to be the best in the city to have our baby. There is room for only five babies at a time, but (9) we were there we had the place virtually to ourselves.

In an industrialised world that (10) a decline in birth rates, Italy has the lowest rate of all – 1.17 children per couple, (11) one study, (12) 1.7 in France and 2.1 in the United States.

(13) is extraordinary is that in terms of abstract statistical projection, by the year 2150 Italy (14) millions of new cars, buildings, refrigerators, computers, mobile phones and video recorders – but no people.

(From the *Independent on Sunday*)

- b) Now choose one of the words or phrases below to complete each gap.
 - 1 a) can b) may c) could d) can't
 - 2 a) who'll love b) that's loving c) who love d) that loves
 - 3 a) but b) and c) although d) however
 - 4 a) to acquire b) acquiring c) in acquiring d) acquire
 - 5 a) that b) to c) than d) having
 - 6 a) visit b) visited c) have visited d) 'm visiting
 - 7 a) have been occupied b) occupied c) were occupied d) occupying
 - 8 a) reputed b) which reputed c) reputed d) which reputed
 - 9 a) while b) during c) as d) for
 - 10 a) was seen b) has seen c) see d) sees
 - 11 a) depending on b) according to c) providing that d) accordingly
 - 12 a) comparing to b) compared with c) different to d) different from
 - 13 a) It b) What c) There d) Whatever
 - 14 a) will have b) has c) is having d) will be

- 2a) Which areas of grammar cause you the most problems (e.g. tenses and verb forms, linking expressions, complex sentences)?