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DIECI PAROLE DELL'ESTATE DEL 2020

VOCABOLARIO

ASSEMBRAMENTO: (m.) a gathering, a crowd – (“*Gli **assembramenti** sono strettamente vietati.*” → “Gatherings are strictly forbidden.”)

INSABBIARE: from **sabbia** (sand) – literally: to cover with sand. Also: to file away and forget, to cover-up (figuratively, as in scandalous activity), to bury or to hush up (figuratively). (“*Monello! Non mi **insabbiare**, che mi sono appena messo il Coppertone!*” → “Hey, brat... don’t throw sand on me now that I’ve just put on suntan lotion!”)

SMORZARE: to extinguish, to put out (a fire, a candle); to tone-down, to squelch, to put a damper on (“*Sandrino ha **smorzato** la festa.*” → “Sandrino is a party-pooper.”) The adjective is **smorzato/a**: muffled, deadened, faint, dim, dampened, subdued, quiet (“*Oggi Peppinella è un po’ **smorzata**. Chissà perché!*” → “Today, Peppinella is a bit quiet. Who knows why!”)

MASCHERINA: (f.) diminutive form of **maschera** (mask). While **maschera** is a mask, like a masquerade party or halloween mask or even a gas mask, **mascherina** is strictly used to mean surgical face mask. (“*Sandrino, se non ti metti la **mascherina** quando vai in piscina, niente gelato per te!*” → “Sandrino, if you don’t wear your mask when you go into the pool, no ice-cream for you!”)

PLAGIO: (m.) plagiarism (“*Quel signore è stato accusato di **plagio**.*” → “That man [gentleman] has been *accused of plagiarism.*”)

SCARTOFFIA: (f.) papers (implying a mess), paperwork – (“*Prendi le tue **scartoffie** e fila!*” → “Take your stupid papers and get out of here!”) [**Filare** → to get out, run away]

TAMPONE: (m.) There are several meanings (e.g.; plug, stopper, wad, blotter, tampon), but spoken quite a bit this spring and summer, as it also means swab (as used for COVID-19 screening) – (“*Sandrino, se non vai a farti fare un **tampone**, non entri in casa!*” → “Sandrino, if you don’t get the COVID test, you’re not allowed into the house!”)

SFONDO vs **SOTTOFONDO:** (m.) **SFONDO** is the background in a photo or painting – (“*Nello **sfondo** della fotografia, si vede Sandrino che da un calcio alla strega.*” → “You can see Sandrino kicking the witch in the background of the photo.”) By the way, the opposite of **sfondo** is **IN PRIMO PIANO** – i.e.; the foreground part of a photo or painting. On the other hand, **SOTTOFONDO** pertains to audio: a background sound or music.



FOCOLAIO: a hotbed, breeding ground, or the center of infection.