

## Discussion box

- 1 Would you be interested in learning an AL? Why / Why not?
- 2 Imagine a hundred years from now. Do you think language barriers will still be common? Why / Why not?
- 3 Do you think it would be good if there was only one language in the world? Why / Why not?

## 9 Write

- a** Read the story. Which two words or expressions were misunderstood? What do each of them mean in 'standard' English?

- b** Fill in the spaces with these adverbs or adverbial phrases.

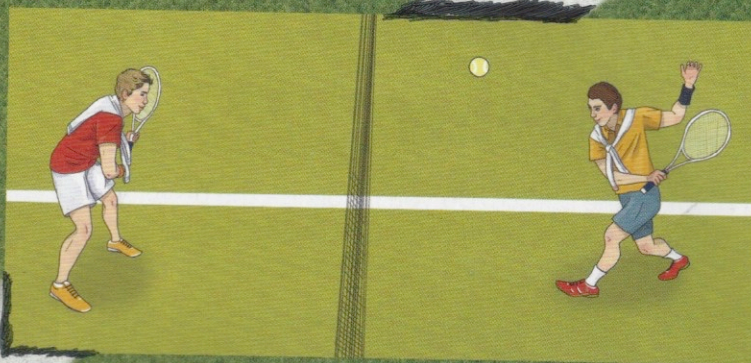
in a panic   exactly  
unfortunately   suddenly  
desperately   immediately  
easily   ~~fortunately~~

- c** Write a story, between 150 and 250 words, with this title: *A misunderstanding*.

Use an incident that happened to you, or make up a story, where there was a misunderstanding due to language (a foreign language or the same language).

Use adverbs and adverbial phrases to make your story as lively as possible.

# Misunderstandings



University was a new experience for me. I had grown up in the confines of a small seaside town in the south of England, and <sup>1</sup> suddenly I was thrown together with people my age from all over the country. People were speaking in accents that I had only ever heard on TV, and sometimes using words that I had never heard before.

I had only been at university for about a week when I met Dave Pitman, from Liverpool in the north of England. We discovered that we both played tennis, and arranged to meet up one afternoon for a game.

I went to the sports hall at the time we'd agreed, and went into the changing rooms. Dave was already there, and <sup>2</sup> in a panic I could see that he wasn't very happy. He was searching <sup>3</sup> desperately for something inside his bag. He looked up at me as I walked in.

'I've forgotten my keks,' he said. 'You haven't got any, have you?'

<sup>4</sup> unfortunately I had no idea what he was talking about. <sup>5</sup> in a panic, I thought: Tennis balls? Shorts? Trainers? What? but, I said: 'Sorry?' Dave repeated: 'Have you got any spare keks with you?'

Of course, I could <sup>6</sup> immediately have asked him what the word meant, but I was too embarrassed and didn't want to offend him. <sup>7</sup> in a panic Dave saw the look on my face, and said: 'You know - keks. Shorts.'

Now I understood, and luckily, I did have some spare shorts in my bag. I lent them to him, we played, and he won. Then we went to get a drink. The woman at the canteen asked me what I wanted. 'I'd like a Black Vanilla, please,' I said. (Where I come from, that's cola and ice cream.) 'What on earth is that?' said the woman. I knew <sup>8</sup> in a panic how she felt.