

WRITING

A news story

- 1 Read the news story. How do the children communicate in the village of Ubang?
- 2 Match the sentences (1–5) with the paragraphs (A–C). Two sentences match one of the paragraphs.
 - 1 An expert's explanation of the Ubang languages. ☐
 - 2 An explanation given by the Ubang chief. ☐
 - 3 A fear about the future. ☐
 - 4 A general belief about communication between men and women. ☐
 - 5 Examples of different words that Ubang men and women have for things. ☐
- 3 Complete the news story with the *Useful language* phrases in the box.

asked insisted that Nowadays said surprisingly

What did you say?

A People, especially older people, often complain that men and women don't understand each other. But there is a Nigerian village where men and women actually do speak different languages because, ¹ surprisingly, they use different vocabularies for many things. Ubang people are proud of their language and culture but are afraid that the language will not continue.



B In the village of Ubang, women use the words *okwakwe* for 'dog' and *ogbala* for 'cup' and men say *abu* and *nko*. And there are many other examples of words that sound different and use completely different letters. When ² _____ if men and women find it difficult to understand each other, the Ubang village chief ³ _____ everyone understands each other perfectly and that they are very proud of the difference. In fact, there are lots of words that men and women have in common. Ms Chi Chi Undie, who has studied the community, says that the men and women of the tribe live very separate lives. 'All their children are brought up speaking the women's language fluently,' she ⁴ _____. When the boys get older, they learn to speak like the men in order to be closer to them.

C ⁵ _____, most children are learning English and the older members of the community ask what is going to happen to their unique language situation. ... The village chief is determined that it will survive because, he says, 'if the languages die, the Ubang people will exist no more.'

Write a news story.

PLAN

- 4 Research a current news story on a few websites to get difference versions. Make notes on these things in your notebook.

A general introduction

The basic facts of the story (who? what? where?)

An interesting fact or extra information

Quotes from the people involved

WRITE

- 5 Write your news story. Remember to include three paragraphs, language from this unit and expressions from the *Useful language* box (see Student's Book, p113).

CHECK

- 6 Do you ...
 - include an interesting headline?
 - include some extra details in the third paragraph?
 - include some direct speech?