



WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

READING PLAYING AWAY

Juan Alvarez is a professional footballer from Seville. He plays football for a Scottish club, Inverness.



'In the south of Spain, where I come from, it's usually hot and it hardly ever snows.
5 Now I'm living in Scotland, here it rains or snows every day and it's extremely cold. I often want to wear a hat and gloves when I play, but the other players might laugh at me.

10 We train every morning from 9.30 to 12.30. I enjoy training. I'm one of the team now, I'm not a foreign player. After training we go to a café together and sit and talk, and have a laugh. Then we play snooker. I'm
15 quite bad at it but I'm getting better. After that, I go back to my room. I'm living in a hotel at the moment but I'm looking for my own apartment. I'm becoming a bit of an expert on computers. I play computer
20 games, surf the Internet for hours and send e-mails to all my family and friends back home.

I speak quite good English but I can't understand the
25 other players when they speak quickly. Sometimes they try to help me –they pretend they can speak Spanish. It doesn't help at all! I'm glad I'm learning English because it's the
30 most useful international language, especially in sport.

In the evening, I usually go to a club or a restaurant. Then fans are wonderful. They love their team but when you're not
35 playing football they respect your privacy, give you space. People smile at me or say hi but they don't stop me and want to know why we lost last Saturday. I'm learning a lot here in Scotland and I'm enjoying my
40 football. It's a pity it's so incredibly cold.'

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A) READ THE TEXT AND SAY IF THE SENTENCES ARE TRUE OR FALSE.

- 1) The Inverness players train in the morning and the afternoon.
- 2) They play snooker in Juan's hotel.
- 3) Juan knows how to use a computer.
- 4) He's teaching the other players to speak Spanish.
- 5) The Inverness fans don't like Juan.

B) FIND SYNONYMS IN THE TEXT FOR THESE WORDS. WRITE ONLY ONE OR TWO WORDS.

- 1) Rarely (paragraph 1)
- 2) Practise (paragraph 2)
- 3) Improving (paragraph 2)
- 4) Fantastic (paragraph 4)
- 5) Something unfortunate (paragraph 4)