Speaker1

I suffer from asthma and I usually carry an inhaler around with me just in case I get an attack. Anyway, I was on a _____ trip- I was in Paris - I had forgotten my inhaler and I was having problems _____ . So I went to a chemist's and asked for 'un aspirateur', which I thought was the French word for 'inhaler'. I realized it wasn't when the girls behind the counter looked very confused. It _____ out that I had asked for a vacuum cleaner, ·aspirateur'. instead of an inhaler, 'inhalareur '.

Speaker 2

I was in Istanbul with a Turkish friend of mine and we decided that we wanted to buy some _____. I wanted to try out the Turkish I knew so I said that I would ask for it. So we found this tiny little shop and we went in. I said to the shop assistant in my best voice 'taze erkek' which I thought meant 'fresh bread'. Unfortunately, I got the _____ for bread 'ekmek' confused with the word for man 'erkek', so what I had actually asked for was 'a fresh young man'. Luckily, my friend came to my rescue and asked for the bread correctly, but I _____ a bit embarrassed!

Speaker 3

I was 14,and I was on an exchange visit with my school in Madrid. It was the first _____ and I was at home 'with my Spanish host family, the Garcias, having dinner. we'd finished the main course and it was time for dessert, so the wife, Maria, asked me if I'd like some fruit. I saw some bananas in the fruit bowl, so I asked for a 'platón', at which point the _____ family looked at me strangely. They then explained to me that I'd actually asked for a large plate. 'Platón' means 'large plate' whereas 'banana' is ·platano'.

Speaker 4

I·was inVerona in Italy with my husband, and it was a very hot day, so we decided to get something to drink. So we ___ down at this cafe in the square and we looked at the menu. I decided that I ____ have peach juice, so when the waiter came to our table, I asked him for some 'succo di pesce'. As soon as I'd finished speaking, he burst out _____. He quickly apologized and explained in English that I'd asked him for fish juice and not peach juice. Fish is 'pesce' in Italian, and peaches are 'pesca'.

Speaker 5

I went to Corfu on holiday when I was about ____ and there were lots of beautiful Greek girls around, so I wanted to make a good impression by speaking Greek to them. So every morning when I saw them I said good morning to them: 'kalamari'. They always used to look at me as if I was completely ____ and I never understood why. Later in the holiday someone told me that good morning is in fact 'kalimera', not 'kalamari'. I'd been saying 'squid' to them every morning not 'good morning' so I'm not surprised they thought I was mad!