

# A sense of belonging

## Did you know?

Although the term “soccer” was invented by the British, today it is used by Americans so as to distinguish football from American football.

I was the only Arsenal supporter in the first year. (...) Arsenal’s best-known player was probably Ian Ure, famous only for being hilariously useless and for his contributions to the television series *Quiz Ball*.  
5 But in that glorious first football-saturated term<sup>1</sup>, it didn’t matter that I was on my own. In our dormitory town no club had a monopoly on support and, in any case, my new best friend, a Derby County fan like his father and uncle, was similarly isolated. The main  
10 thing was that you were a believer. Before school, at breaktime and at lunchtime, we played football on the tennis courts with a tennis ball, and in between lessons we swapped Soccer Star stickers (...)  
And so transferring to secondary school was rendered  
15 unimaginably easy. I was probably the smallest boy in the first year but size didn’t matter, although my friendship with the Derby fan, the tallest boy by several feet, was pretty handy; and though my performance as a student was undistinguished (...)  
20 This pattern has repeated itself several times since then. The first and easiest friends I made at college were football fans.



Boys playing football: a common outdoor activity for school children

1. term (n.): *trimestre*
2. a breeze (exp.) = easy

Nick Hornby, *Fever Pitch*, 1992

## METHODS

### Before you read :

- Introduce the document (what type ? When was it written ? Who wrote it?)

### First reading :

- What did you understand globally ?

### 2nd reading :

- Who is who ? Choose a colour and highlight words referring to people

### 3<sup>rd</sup> reading :

- choose other colours and highlight places, dates and numbers

### 4<sup>th</sup> reading :

- give a title to each paragraph

## STRATEGIES

### Use the context and/or word building to deduce the meaning of the following words

- best-known (I2) - hilariously (I3) - we swapped (I 13) - unimaginably (I 15) - size (I 15) - handy (I 17) - undistinguished (I 17)