

EXPERTS

My friend Miguel knows an incredible amount (0) about football. He can recite the names of (1) the players. He can (2) you the result of every match and (3) scored the goals. He knows the history of (4) football club you care to name. Moreover, he is (5) knowledgeable about Italian or German or Brazilian football as he is about the football of (6) own country. Thanks (7) a photographic memory, he has acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of the game. He (8) a lot of time looking through the sports sections of the newspapers, from which he (9) the information he needs in (10) to make endless lists and carry (11) statistical calculations of all kinds. (12) short, he is an expert, although, curiously (13) , he does not play the game (14) , and only goes occasionally to (15) a match. I admire Miguel (16) his expertise, but I have to admit that he (17) me feel inadequate. I want to be an expert on something too, (18) doesn't really matter what, as (19) as I can find a subject about (20) I know more than anyone (21) It is said (22) , in studying any subject, you go through four stages:

At (23) , you know nothing and you know that you don't know (24)

Stage Two: you know a little and you think you know a lot.

By the (25) you reach Stage Three, you know a lot but you think you know very little.

When you get to Stage Four, you (26) arrived: you know a lot and you know that you know a lot. (27) my friend Miguel, I never seem to get beyond Stage One. Wait a minute, though!

There is one subject I am good at: natural history. I mean, I (28) name every bird, animal and plant I (29) across on an afternoon's walk. I know a lot - or do I? Perhaps I am only at Stage Two after (30)