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his wife had found no trace of him.

Then, a friend watching the popular movie "Natale in Crociera" (Christmas on a Cruise) saw Garibaldi and his mistress in the background of a scene.



Garibaldi - shop-keeper, film star, Italian patriot & biscuit.

The movie was shot in the Dominican Republic and his wife has now traced him and launched legal proceedings demanding return of the money.

Hamster's Great Escape

A hamster escaped after his five-year-old owner took him to the cinema to see Alvin and the Chipmunks.

Sarah Stokes, of Pangbourne, Berks, thought her pet, called Hamish, would love to see the cartoon movie, reports the Daily Mirror.

So she smuggled him out of his cage and carried him with her on an outing with gran Bernadette Bedford, sister Rachel, 10, and brother James, four.

But Hamish popped out and disappeared under hundreds of seats - and Sarah was too scared to own up.

Three days later mum Holly noticed he was missing and started a top-to-bottom search of the house.

Sarah finally plucked up courage to admit what happened. And after a flurry of phone calls, cinema staff eventually found Hamish beneath the screen.

Holly said yesterday: "Nobody knew Hamish was in the bag when Sarah went to the

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Dave was kind enough to share with us some secrets of his success in communicating with the locals. One of the points he was keen to stress is that it make a big difference to people exactly what words you say. If you just use a standard dictionary, people will often think you are stupid. Dictionaries do not take into account local dialects, and what may be fine in Andalucia, may not work in Sosua.

Try to practice the following phrases when out and about in the Dominican Republic.

It's a hot day and you're feeling the effects of the sun. You want to practice your Spanish and maybe strike up a conversation with a stranger? Try saying, "Estoy caliente", which means, "I'm hot". They'll understand and probably offer you a cold one.

It's always nice to make complementary comments to parents about their darling little babies. One of the easiest phrases to remember, and one that is sure to endear you to the

Dodgy Dave's

Guide to Spanish

or "How to Make Friends and Influence People"

parents is to gesture at the baby and say, "Que tan feo!", which roughly translated means, "What a little darling!"

When you watch Dominican's meet each other in the street, you will often see them shake each other's hands, smile and say, "Eh, amigo!" If you meet a non-Dominican in the street, you should shout, "Eh, gringo!"

When you are in a conversation with someone and you feel you may have made a blunder, the best thing to say is, "Estoy embarazada," which means,

"I'm embarrassed." The person will understand and your blunder will be forgiven. If you make another blunder, simply say, "Estoy muy embarazada," which means, "I'm very embarrassed." If this phrase doesn't have the desired effect, try saying, "Estás embarazada?" which means, "Are you embarrassed?"

If your car breaks down and you could do with a tow, but you haven't got any rope with you, simply ask other drivers if they have any. The phrase for this is, "Yo no tengo ropa." - I don't have a (tow) rope. "Tienes alguna ropa decente?" - Do you have a decent (tow) rope?

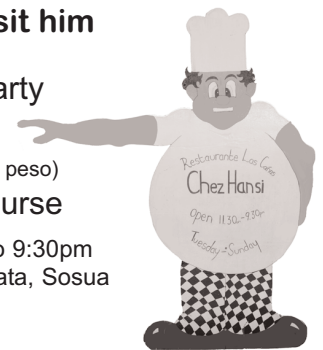
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