

# 11

# The ends of the earth

Relatives and participles • Compound nouns and adjectives • Idiomatic expressions

## STARTER

1 Work in groups and answer the questions.



## EARTH QUIZ

- 1 How old is the earth?  
a 4.6 billion years  
b 6.7 billion years  
c 10.5 billion years
- 2 The earth is considered to have a maximum of seven continents. What are they?
- 3 How many countries are there in the world?  
a 123 b 146 c 193
- 4 Which continent has the most countries?
- 5 What is the population of the world?  
a 4.1 billion people  
b 5.1 billion people  
c 6.1 billion people
- 6 Which country has the largest population?
- 7 What proportion of the earth is covered by water?  
a 61% b 71% c 81%
- 8 How many oceans are there? What are they?
- 9 How much of the earth's land surface is used to grow food?  
a 11% b 16% c 21%
- 10 Where is the world's largest desert? What is it called?
- 11 What's the difference between a political and a physical map?
- 12 Which is the world's largest island?  
a Greenland  
b Iceland  
c Madagascar

2 **TTT** Listen and check. What extra information do you learn about each?

3 Read these 'howlers' (funny mistakes) from some students' geography exams. Explain them.

1 The chief animals of Australia are the kangaroo and the boomerang.

2 Floods from the Mississippi may be prevented by putting big dames in the river.

3 The inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosquitoes.

4 The Mediterranean and the Red Sea are connected by the Sewage Canal.

5 The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

6 In the West, farming is done mostly by irritating the land.

# READING AND SPEAKING

## Three island stories



- 1 Did you know that one in ten people in the world live on an island? Which islands have you visited? When? What were they like?
- 2 Match the photos above to the islands of **Greenland**, **Tristan da Cunha**, and **Zanzibar**. Which island do you know most/least about? Compare ideas with the class.

### 3 Work in groups of three.

**Student A** Read about Greenland on p101.

**Student B** Read about Tristan da Cunha on p102.

**Student C** Read about Zanzibar on p103.

As you read, underline at least three things that you find interesting or surprising. Tell your group about them.

- 4 Answer the questions by comparing information about the islands.
  - 1 What do you learn about the islands' names?
  - 2 Which island lies furthest west?
  - 3 Which has the smallest population?
  - 4 Which is the most economically successful?
  - 5 Which has the most varied history?
  - 6 Do any of the islands share the same native tongue?
  - 7 Which imports the most goods?
  - 8 Which is the most self-sufficient?
  - 9 Which is the most colourful? Which the least? Why?
  - 10 Which attracts the most tourists?

Discuss these questions in your groups.

- 11 In what ways does the location influence life on the islands?
- 12 In what ways has its history influenced present island life?

## Language work

### 5 Geographical expressions

Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. Which island is being referred to in each sentence?

- 1 It is situated \_\_\_\_\_ the South Atlantic, 2,800 km \_\_\_\_\_ the nearest mainland and south \_\_\_\_\_ the island of St Helena.
- 2 Temperatures range \_\_\_\_\_ 0°C \_\_\_\_\_ 15°C in summer.
- 3 Its landscape is made \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ grey granite rock.
- 4 It lies just \_\_\_\_\_ the coast of East Africa.
- 5 It is equal \_\_\_\_\_ size \_\_\_\_\_ half of Western Europe.
- 6 If all this ice were to melt the world's oceans might rise \_\_\_\_\_ six \_\_\_\_\_ seven metres.
- 7 He didn't settle \_\_\_\_\_ the island but, nevertheless, he named it \_\_\_\_\_ himself.
- 8 The history of the island is \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ all proportion \_\_\_\_\_ its size.
- 9 It is divided \_\_\_\_\_ three areas.
- 10 It is an island burgeoning \_\_\_\_\_ spices and subject \_\_\_\_\_ favourable trade winds.
- 11 The population now numbers just \_\_\_\_\_ 300.
- 12 The population is estimated \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 800,000.
- 13 It lacks the abundance \_\_\_\_\_ wildlife found \_\_\_\_\_ the mainland.

### What do you think?

- Which of these islands would you like to visit? Which not? Why?
- People often dream of living on a desert island. Decide in your groups what kind of island the three of you would most like to inhabit. What climate would you want? What would you want the island to provide? What and who would you like to take with you?

1

# GREENLAND

The largest island in the world

## Geography

Greenland is the largest island in the world, measuring 2,670 km from north to south, but with a population of only about 56,000, one-quarter of which lives in the capital, Nuuk. It lies just south of the Arctic Circle, so its summer temperatures range from just 0°C to 15°C. Eighty-five percent of its 2,175,600 km<sup>2</sup> area is covered with a massive ice cap, which holds 9% of the world's fresh water. If all this ice were to melt, the world's oceans would rise by six to seven metres. Despite its name, Greenland is anything but green. Its bare haunting landscape is made up of grey granite rock and massive icebergs, with only tiny pockets of greenery.

## History

The Inuit people (previously known as Eskimos) were the first people of this island. Then, around 980 AD, Eric the Red, a bloodthirsty Norwegian Viking, fled to the island and founded a colony. Despite the desolate greyness, Eric cunningly named the island 'Greenland', so as to attract settlers. His trick worked and the colony grew but then died out suddenly and mysteriously in the 1400s. In 1721, the Danish established a settlement there, and ruled for over 200 years, until 1979, when Greenland was declared an autonomous nation within the Kingdom of Denmark.

## Greenland today

Regional boundaries divide the country into three areas: North, East, and West Greenland. East Greenland, known as Tunu, is the most isolated, blocked by ice for 9 months out of 12. Only 4,000 people live here, despite it being equal in size to half of Western Europe. In the harbour there are corpses of hunted seals, sunk in the cold water which acts as a natural refrigerator. The presence of polar bears is always a possibility. These dangerous, man-eating creatures are feared but also loved as the embodiment of the human spirit in a harsh land.



This is also the region of the semi-permafrost. Tombs are shallow and the dead are often stored for months before being buried in warmer months, when the soil can be dug. There are serious social problems, such as alcoholism and suicides, as a result of unemployment and seasonal depression. The latter is a common syndrome in places where winter lasts more than half the year, where there is no light at all.

Nowadays Greenlandic, or East Inuit language, has become the first language, and Danish the second. The Civil Service is largely Greenlandic as well and there are more Inuit signs than Danish ones. However, like most small remote nations, economic independence is non-existent. Most of the national budget is funded by Denmark. Everything in the supermarket is Danish. Job prospects remain poor and most services, from air transport to seal hunting, are subsidised by the Danish taxpayer.



# TRISTAN DA CUNHA

The remotest island in the world

## Geography

Tristan da Cunha is the remotest island in the world. Situated in the South Atlantic, it is 2,800 km from the nearest mainland, South Africa, and 2,575 km south of the island of St Helena. The island is roughly circular with an average diameter of 10 km. It rises out of the ocean, its volcanic peak crowned with an almost permanent cap of white cloud, and its 40 km of wild, storm-tossed coastline comprising magnificent, massive basalt cliffs. The surrounding seas are rich in fish, providing Tristan da Cunha with its main export.

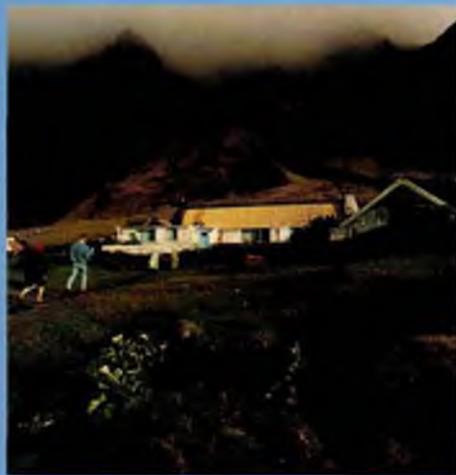
## History

The island was discovered in 1506 by a Portuguese explorer, Tristao da Cunha, who, despite being unable to land there, named the island after himself. The first actual settler was an American, Captain Jonathan Lambert, in 1811. Unfortunately he drowned a year later.

In 1816, the British annexed the island as a defence against the French, who, it was thought, were planning to rescue Napoleon from exile on the island of St Helena.

The British left, leaving the founder of the present community – a Scot, Corporal William Glass, who settled on the island with his family, two companions, and a mulatto woman from St Helena, making

a total of six inhabitants. The community comprised still no more than eleven thatched cottages when, in 1867, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh and second son of Queen Victoria, visited the island and gave his name to the capital, which is called the Edinburgh of the South Seas. Throughout the nineteenth century the population slowly increased but Tristan da Cunha passed into obscurity. Then, in October 1961 a dramatic volcanic eruption forced the evacuation of the entire island. Its people were taken to what was glibly referred to as 'civilization' in South Africa and England. By August 1962 the eruptions had died down and in November 1963 the islanders chose to return home.



## Tristan today

To visit Tristan da Cunha is to visit another world, another life, another time. The settlement of Edinburgh has a distinct air of yesteryear about it, although it has all modern conveniences. There is a small museum, a large supermarket, a swimming pool, and a radio station but no television.

The population now numbers just under 300 – a proud and hospitable people with only seven surnames between them: Hagan, Rogers, Glass, Lavarello, Swain, Green, and Repetto. Through their veins flows the blood of English sailors from Nelson's fleet, Americans, Italians, two Irish girls, Dutch, and mulattos from St Helena and South Africa. English is the native tongue, albeit a slightly strange, old-fashioned dialect, laced with a few early Americanisms.

The island is self-supporting with a thriving economy. Income tax is low (although imported goods are very expensive). Serious crime is unknown, unemployment is virtually non-existent.

As well as the fishing industry, a main source of income on the island is the sale of postage stamps, which are prized by philatelists worldwide.



# ZANZIBAR

The most exotic island in the world

## Geography

A large proportion of the world's population have heard of Zanzibar. The name conjures up all sorts of exotic images: sultans, slaves, spices, ebony, ivory, gold, and explorers – words that start to tell the story of Zanzibar. However, only a small proportion of the world's population know exactly where Zanzibar is. It is located in the Indian Ocean, just off the Tanzanian coast of East Africa, immediately south of the equator. Zanzibar Island is 83 km long and 38 km wide with magnificent, golden, sandy beaches fringed by coconut palms and coral reefs. Zanzibar lacks the abundance of wildlife that is found on mainland Africa. No giraffes, elephants, or lions here today, just a few monkeys and small antelopes. However, in 1295, when visiting the island, Marco Polo recorded that Zanzibar had 'elephants in plenty'.



## History

The history of Zanzibar is one out of all proportion to its size. It was the richest place in Africa for centuries, an island burgeoning with spices and subject to such favourable winds that it has served as the centre of trade between Africa, Arabia, and India for over five thousand years. The islands have always been highly prized by empire builders: Egyptians, Arabs, Portuguese, Chinese, Dutch, and British have all taken possession, valuing it not only for its strategic trading position, but also because of its fertile soils and temperate climate. Zanzibar used to be the world's largest producer of cloves, grown on plantations, established in the early 1800s by Sultan Said of Oman.

In 1964, the islands joined with the country of Tanganyika on the East African mainland, to become the United

Republic of Tanzania. 'Zanzibar' forms half the name of 'Tanzania.'

## Zanzibar today

The population is estimated at about 800,000, an incredible mixture of ethnic backgrounds, indicative of the island's colourful history. Zanzibaris speak Swahili, a language which is spoken extensively in East Africa. Many believe that the purest form is spoken in Zanzibar as it is the birthplace of the language. Fishing and agriculture are the main economic activities of the local people. Although cloves are still a major export along with coconut products and spices, tourism has been earmarked as the primary foreign exchange earner, with more visitors coming to Zanzibar each year. Some of these come to visit the birth place of the late Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the band Queen, who was born Farouk Bulsara in Zanzibar City on 5 September 1946. However, the numbers of tourists are still relatively low (less than 100,000 annually) and the potential for tourism is still largely untapped. The island is trying hard to develop sensitive tourism that benefits both visitors and community, without losing the magic that is Zanzibar.



# VOCABULARY AND LISTENING

## Compound nouns and adjectives

### Weather words

- 1 How many compound nouns and adjectives can you make using the 'weather' words on the left?

sun  
rain  
wind  
snow  
ice

Nouns	Adjectives
berg	-blown
cap	burnt
drift	-capped
drop	-drenched
fall	-soaked
plough	swept
flake	tanned
roof	
storm	
stroke	

- 2 Complete these sentences with compounds from exercise 1.

- The annual \_\_\_\_\_ in London is 610 mm.
- My sister stayed out in the sun for too long and she was ill for two days with \_\_\_\_\_.
- One winter's night there was a terrible \_\_\_\_\_. In the morning the \_\_\_\_\_ were so deep that even the \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't get through to our village.
- I'd love a convertible on warm days like these. My car doesn't even have a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The *Titanic* sank because it hit a huge \_\_\_\_\_.
- Did you know that Kilimanjaro is a \_\_\_\_\_ mountain even though it's on the Equator?
- After a hot day's sailing my face was \_\_\_\_\_ and my hair was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Did you know that the pattern of every single tiny \_\_\_\_\_ is different?
- I love the sight of \_\_\_\_\_ on rose petals after a shower.
- I love both the hot \_\_\_\_\_ beaches of the Caribbean and the wet \_\_\_\_\_ hills of Scotland for my holidays.

### Adjective order

- 3 Look at these examples of adjectives before nouns. Which adjectives are more factual? Which are more opinion? What is their position? Try to work out some rules.

- Beautiful, old, thatched cottages
- Glorious, golden Mediterranean beaches
- Amazing, huge, grey, granite rocks
- Strange, old-fashioned English dialect
- Wild, storm-tossed Atlantic coast
- Dangerous, man-eating polar bears

#### ▶▶ Grammar Reference p157

- 4 Put the adjectives in brackets into a natural-sounding order.

- He gave us some bread. (wholemeal; delicious; home-made)
- A lady arrived. (Irish; little; funny; old)
- I bought a shirt. (silk; red and white; gorgeous; striped)
- She's just had a boy. (baby; lovely; bouncing; fat)
- He showed me into a room. (airy; light; high-ceilinged; delightful; living)
- I met a student. (young; trendy; art; Venezuelan)
- She's wearing trousers. (leather; black; shiny; tight-fitting)
- It's a rose. (sweet-smelling; exquisite; apricot-coloured)

- 5 Add some extra information for each sentence in exercise 4.

It's a beautiful, old thatched cottage **with a beautiful garden./ hidden from the road.**

**T 11.2** Listen and compare your answers.

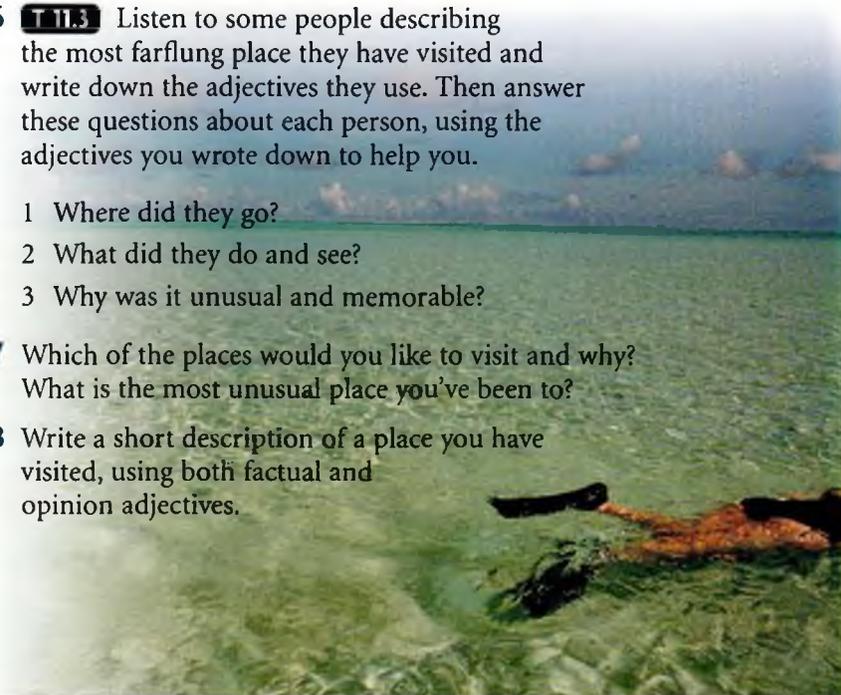
### Farflung spots

- 6 **T 11.3** Listen to some people describing the most farflung place they have visited and write down the adjectives they use. Then answer these questions about each person, using the adjectives you wrote down to help you.

- Where did they go?
- What did they do and see?
- Why was it unusual and memorable?

- 7 Which of the places would you like to visit and why? What is the most unusual place you've been to?

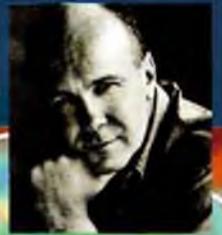
- 8 Write a short description of a place you have visited, using both factual and opinion adjectives.



# LISTENING AND SPEAKING

## A meeting in the desert

**Simon Winchester** is a foreign correspondent who travels widely, often to the more remote parts of the world.



**1** Look at the illustrations which tell Simon's unusual story about a railway journey in the far west of China. Work with a partner to try and predict what happens.

**2** **T 11.4** Listen to the first part of the story. Are these statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Simon made the journey alone.
- 2 He was attracted to the idea of travelling on a new railway line in such a remote area.
- 3 They stopped in a desert town called Urunchi.
- 4 The engine driver spoke impeccable English.
- 5 He met an exquisitely lovely, rather serious Chinese lady.

What do you think happens next?

**3** **T 11.5** Listen to the second part. Were any of your predictions correct? Answer the questions.

- 1 Why did the lady check her watch?
- 2 How do Anthony Trollope and his book *The Eustace Diamonds* figure in the story?
- 3 Who struggled and scribbled? Why?
- 4 Who scabbled? Why?
- 5 Why did the lady say 'Don't be silly!?'?
- 6 Complete these extracts with the next three words.

a I could just about remember \_\_\_\_\_ ...

b The last vision I have of her was her scabbled on her \_\_\_\_\_ ...

How do you think the story ends? What do you think was in the letter? The pictures may help you predict.

**4** **T 11.6** Listen to the last part. How close were your predictions? Are these statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

- 1 The lady wrote to Simon to ask if she could meet him again soon.
- 2 She and her husband had to move to Kwi Tun as a punishment.
- 3 She called Kwi Tun 'this lovely little town.'
- 4 She regularly cycles thirteen miles across the desert to meet the train.
- 5 Her main motivation is to find somebody to talk to in English.
- 6 She once had a conversation with a migrant worker about Trollope.
- 7 She talked to Simon about religion.
- 8 Simon and the lady have unfortunately lost touch with each other.

**5** Work with your partner to retell the story in your own words, using the pictures to help.

*Simon and his friend decided to ...*

*After about 150 miles ...*

## LANGUAGE FOCUS

### Relatives and participles

#### Defining and non-defining relative clauses

Underline the relative clauses in these sentences. Then answer the questions.

- Here's somebody who speaks English.
  - The Chinese lady, who speaks impeccable English, lives in the desert.
  - She works for a company which organizes adventure holidays.
  - They made a railway journey across the desert to Kazakhstan, which sounded fascinating.
  - The friend who he travelled with is a doctor.
  - The islanders were taken to what was referred to as 'civilization'.
- Which sentences still make complete sense if the relative clauses are removed? Which are defining relative clauses? Which are non-defining?
  - In which sentences can *who* and *which* be replaced by *that*? Why?
  - In which sentence can the relative pronoun (*who* or *which*) be omitted? Why?
  - In which sentence can *whom* replace *who*? Transform this sentence. What effect does this have?
  - Read the sentences aloud. What is the role of the commas?

▶▶ Grammar Reference p158

- Work with a partner and discuss any differences in meaning and/or form between the sentences in each pair.
  - The sailors whose cabins were below deck all drowned.  
The sailors, whose cabins were below deck, all drowned.
  - My sister, who's a travel agent, is terrified of flying.  
My sister who's a travel agent is terrified of flying.
  - The explorer Tristao da Cunha, after whom the island was named, never actually landed there.  
The explorer Tristao da Cunha, who they named the island after, never actually landed there.
  - I'm appalled at everything that happened.  
I'm appalled at what happened.
  - The map showed the place in which the treasure was buried.  
The map showed where the treasure was buried.
  - People seeking adventure meet all kinds of danger.  
People who seek adventure meet all kinds of danger.
  - There are white coral sands fringed by coconut palms.  
There are white coral sands which are fringed by coconut palms.
- Read these incomplete sentences and discuss whether they should be completed with a defining or non-defining relative clause, or whether both are possible.
  - I don't like children ...
  - The journey from work to home ... took over two hours yesterday.
  - Politicians ... aren't worth listening to.
  - The Taj Mahal ... is built from exquisitely carved white marble.
  - These are the photographs ...
  - We docked at the small port on the coast of East Africa ...
  - My cousin ... went hang-gliding at the weekend.
  - We went on a cycling holiday in Wales ...

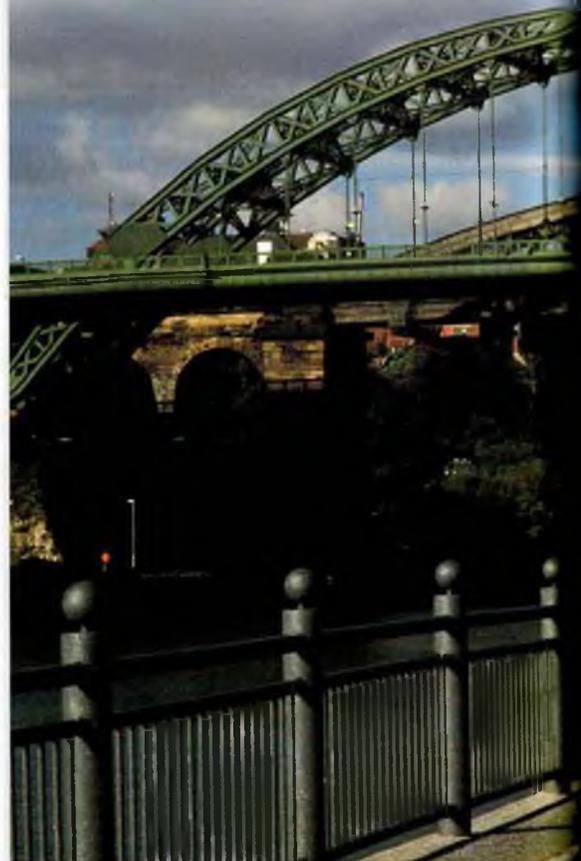
**T 11.7** Complete them with your ideas, then listen and compare.

**1** The part of Britain \_\_\_\_\_ I most like to visit is \_\_\_\_\_. I was born in the north-east of England.

**2** I was born in Sunderland \_\_\_\_\_ is on the coast and \_\_\_\_\_ there used to be a large ship-building industry.



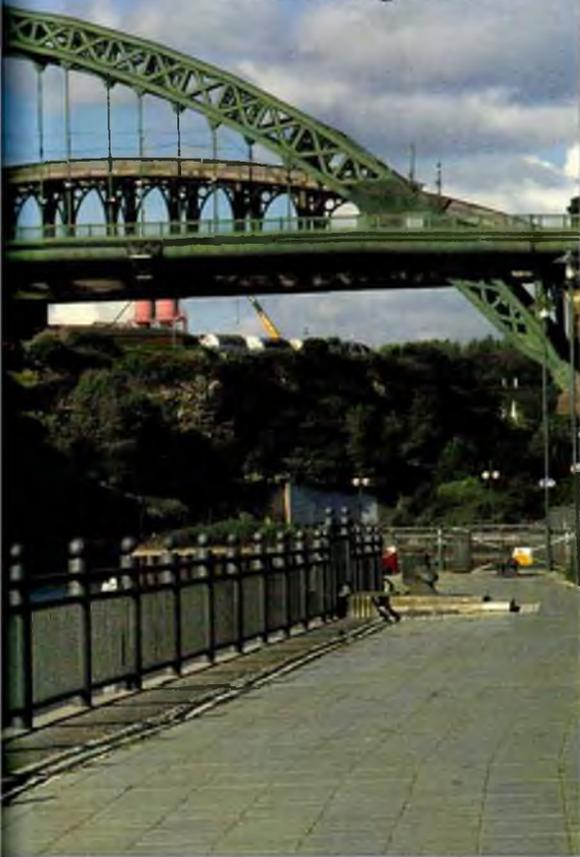
**3** My sister \_\_\_\_\_ husband is an artist still lives in the town \_\_\_\_\_ is the reason I often return there.



**3** Complete the text above with relative pronouns and commas where necessary. If it is possible to omit the pronoun, add nothing.

# where I was born

- 4 My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ worked in the shipyards went to London only once in his life and that was \_\_\_\_\_ the Sunderland football team won the FA cup in 1973.
- 5 The Wear Bridge \_\_\_\_\_ outline you can see from miles around spans the estuary of the River Wear and \_\_\_\_\_ once dockyards and warehouses stood there are now trendy restaurants and yacht clubs.
- 6 My brother-in-law \_\_\_\_\_ has travelled widely and \_\_\_\_\_ paintings depict many exotic places, still prefers to paint \_\_\_\_\_ is most familiar to him – the grey, stormy North Sea.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ I like most \_\_\_\_\_ I visit my home town are all the memories \_\_\_\_\_ come flooding back.



## Participles

Participle clauses can express these ideas.

- at the same time
- so that/with the result that
- because
- if
- after

▶▶ Grammar Reference p159

- 5 Which ideas do the participles in these sentences express?
- 1 Living in London, I appreciate the pros and cons of city life.
  - 2 I cut myself opening a tin.
  - 3 Having read the minutes of the meeting, I wrote a report.
  - 4 Having read the minutes of the meeting, I understood the problems.
  - 5 Cooked in a red wine sauce, ostrich meat can be delicious.
  - 6 Knowing my love of chocolate, she hid it away in her drawer.
  - 7 Taken from his mother as a child, he's always had difficulty establishing relationships.
  - 8 Browsing in our local bookshop, I came across this great book on computing skills.
- 6 Complete the pairs of sentences with the same verb, once as a present participle and once as a past participle.
- 1 Tomatoes grown under polythene ripen more quickly.  
Growing up in the countryside is really healthy for young kids.
  - 2 We took a short-cut, \_\_\_\_\_ an hour on our journey time.  
With the money \_\_\_\_\_ from not smoking we've bought a new computer.
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ all things into account, we've decided to offer you the job.  
\_\_\_\_\_ three times a day these tablets can really help hayfever.
  - 4 Flights \_\_\_\_\_ one month in advance have a 10% discount.  
\_\_\_\_\_ your flight in advance gives you a better deal.
  - 5 I fell on the ice, \_\_\_\_\_ my wrist.  
The two boys \_\_\_\_\_ in the car accident are doing well in hospital.
  - 6 \_\_\_\_\_ promises leads to lack of trust.  
\_\_\_\_\_ promises lead to lack of trust.
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ away secrets won't win you any friends.  
I don't believe a word he says, \_\_\_\_\_ that he never tells the truth.
  - 8 The new uniforms \_\_\_\_\_ by the flight attendants looked very smart.  
Students \_\_\_\_\_ studs in their noses will be asked to remove them immediately.

- 4 Write some notes about the town where you were born. Give it to a partner to read and ask questions.

# THE LAST WORD

## What on earth!

- 1 Complete the sentences with a suitable noun from the box.

earth ground floor land soil world

- 1 The sailors didn't see \_\_\_\_\_ again until the ship reached Australia.
  - 2 Communication satellites orbit the \_\_\_\_\_ once every 24 hours.
  - 3 This rich, black \_\_\_\_\_ looks extremely fertile.
  - 4 He fell off the wall and hit his head on the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5 We are all striving for \_\_\_\_\_ peace.
  - 6 In American English they say 'the first \_\_\_\_\_', but in British English we say 'the ground \_\_\_\_\_'.
  - 7 What on \_\_\_\_\_ are you doing down there on your hands and knees?
  - 8 He lives in a \_\_\_\_\_ of his own, you just can't get through to him.
  - 9 I like her because she's such a down-to-\_\_\_\_\_ kind of person.
- 2 Here are some idiomatic expressions using the words in exercise 1. Match a line in A with a line in B. Use a dictionary if necessary.

A	B
1 I'm cleaned out! This new jacket cost the earth.	a I nearly wasn't. I had to move heaven and earth to get here.
2 Believe me, that guy's really going places.	b I can't. My dad caught me smoking and I've been grounded for two weeks.
3 The holiday's over. It's back to the real world.	c Come on! It's good to spoil yourself every now and then.
4 What? You're not coming out on Saturday night!	d Don't I know it! He landed that consultancy job that we all applied for.
5 Hey! Great to see you! I thought you weren't going to be able to make it.	e In your dreams. Not if you were the last man on earth!
6 We're throwing caution to the wind and emigrating to Oz.	f Don't ask me. I was totally floored by the last lot I read.
7 Come on, you know you want to go out with me really.	g Great! That suits me down to the ground.
8 Can you follow these instructions? Where on earth do all these screws go?	h You can say that again. Back to earth with a bump!
9 I don't want to drink, so I'll do the driving tonight.	i Don't your folks already live down under?

- 3 **T 11.8** Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

- 4 Write some similar conversations with your partner, using some of the expressions from exercise 2. Read them to another pair.