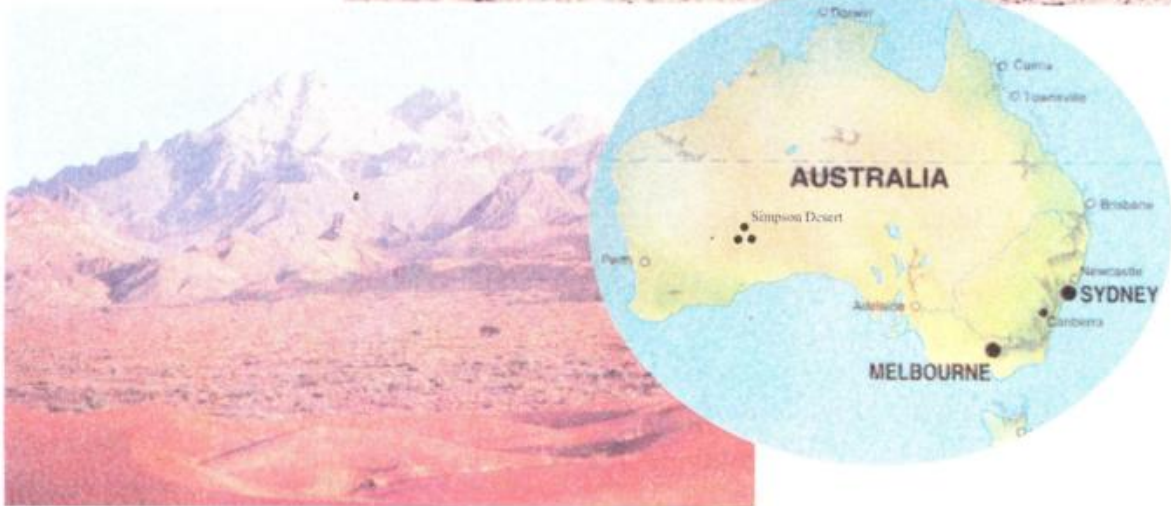
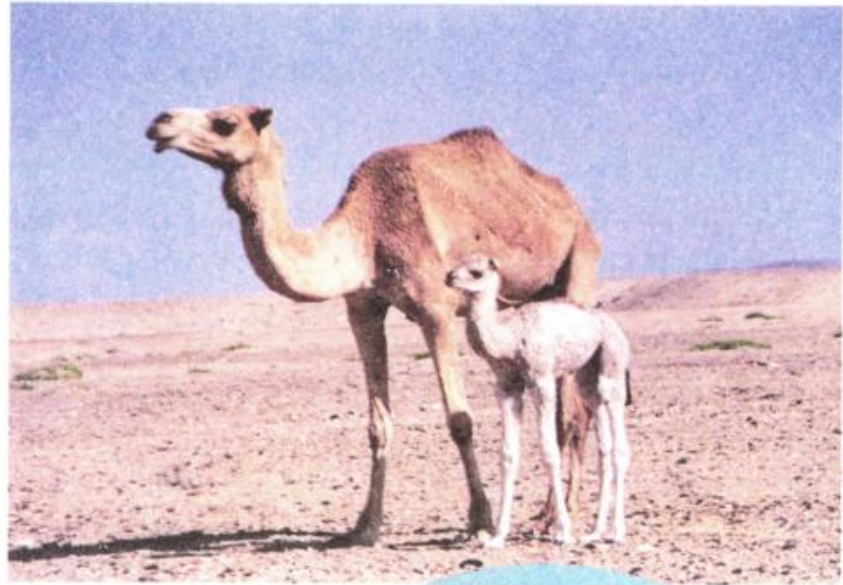




# DESERTS

## A. READING

Before you read



● *Work in pairs. Ask and answer the following questions.*

1. What do you know about deserts?
2. What kinds of plants and animals live in a desert?
3. Name some of the countries which have deserts.

## While you read

*Read the passage and do the tasks that follow.*


Three great stretches of sandy desert almost circle the centre of Australia. To the north of Nullabor Plain stretches the Great Victoria Desert. In the west, the Gibbon, Great Sandy, and Tanami Deserts comprise an enormous sandy area. North of Lake Eyre lies the Simpson Desert, the last part of Australia to be explored.

The Simpson Desert lies between Lake Eyre in the south, the Macdonnell Ranges in the north, the Mulligan and the Diamantina Rivers in the east, and the Macumba and Finke Rivers in the west. The first European entered the Simpson Desert in 1845. But the desert remained a mystery until Madigan made an aerial survey in 1929. He named the desert after Simpson, President of the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia.


In 1936, Colson and an Australian Aborigine took camels across the desert. They travelled along the border of South Australia and the Northern Territory. Three years later Madigan led a scientific expedition across the sand dunes on a more northerly route. Colson and Madigan both travelled eastward across the Simpson Desert.

In the Simpson Desert there are different types of dunes. In the western part of the desert, there is a network of short dunes, mostly less than 10 metres high. Hummock grasses grow in loose sand on the crest and spinifex grows in the corridors between dunes and on the more stable slopes.


In the northern part of the desert, the dunes are parallel and separated by corridors of low, open shrubland. Spinifex grows on the slopes of the dunes. These dunes are deep red-brown, but the sand is pale in the area where Queensland, South Australia and Northern Territory meet. Dry salt lakes up to 70 kilometres long and 15 kilometres wide lie between long dunes with crests 20 metres high.

 **Task 1.** Give the Vietnamese equivalents to the following words or phrases.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. stretch _____                                    | 6. dune _____      |
| 2. sandy _____                                      | 7. sloping _____   |
| 3. aerial survey _____                              | 8. steep _____     |
| 4. Royal Geographical Society<br>of Australia _____ | 9. hummock _____   |
| 5. Australian Aborigine _____                       | 10. crest _____    |
|   | 11. spinifex _____ |

 **Task 2.** Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. According to the passage, there are three great deserts in Australia. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The Simpson Desert is the largest one in Australia.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The desert was named after Simpson in 1929.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Colson and Madigan travelled across the Simpson Desert in 1936.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. There are more dunes in the western part of the desert.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Dry salt lakes are in the northern part of the desert.                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

 **Task 3.** Answer the following questions.

1. What are the names of the three great stretches of sandy desert which circle the centre of Australia?
2. Where is the Simpson Desert?
3. When did the first European enter the desert?
4. Who was Simpson?
5. How did E. A. Colson and an Australian Aborigine travel across the desert?
6. What are the dunes like in the western and northern parts of the desert?
7. How many kinds of grass grow in the Simpson Desert? What are they?




## After you read

Read this story and answer the questions that follow.


At a restaurant, a Vietnamese interpreter was having dinner with an American businessman. It was a delicious dinner and both of them enjoyed it enormously. Before the dinner was over, the interpreter asked the American businessman: "What would you like for your desert?" After a pause, the American businessman answered: "Trees and water".

1. Is the story funny?
2. Where is the fun?


## B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1. Work in pairs.** Check the trees and animals that you think might exist in a desert. Explain your choice.

banana	<input type="checkbox"/>	crocodile	<input type="checkbox"/>
eucalyptus	<input type="checkbox"/>	camel	<input type="checkbox"/>
cactus	<input type="checkbox"/>	fox	<input type="checkbox"/>
date palm	<input type="checkbox"/>	dog	<input type="checkbox"/>
grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	lizard	<input type="checkbox"/>
frog	<input type="checkbox"/>	rabbit	<input type="checkbox"/>
horse	<input type="checkbox"/>	goat	<input type="checkbox"/>
buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>

 **Task 2. Work in pairs.** Find out as many natural features of a desert as possible. Then compare your notes with other pairs. Use the cues below.

- climate
- plants/trees
- soil
- rainfall
- animals
- seasons

 **Task 3. Work in groups.** You are going on an expedition across a desert with some of your friends. Discuss and choose the five most important things you should bring along with you. Explain your choice.

- a knife
- a gun
- a horse
- food
- a box of match
- a car
- a camel
- a blanket
- water
- a mosquito net
- a cell phone
- a walkman

## C. LISTENING

### Before you listen

● *Work in pairs.* Ask and answer the following questions.

1. What is a desert?
2. How is a desert formed?
3. Can human beings make a desert? Why/Why not?

● *Listen and repeat.*

frightening speed

Sahara


petroleum

Australia

firewood

Mauritania


### While you listen

 **Task 1.** You will hear an expert talking about deserts, what they are and how they are formed. Listen to his talk and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).


1. In a desert, everything is hard.
2. Only trees with hard needles can grow in deserts.
3. Space seems to have no limit in the desert.
4. Nature causes the change in the size and location of the world's deserts.
5. Rabbits are one of the agents that help make deserts in Australia.

**T** **F**

 **Task 2.** Listen again and answer the following questions.

1. What central theme does the talk examine?
2. What is a desert?
3. What causes the growing of the world's deserts?
4. In what way do rabbits contribute to the growing of deserts in Australia?

 **Task 3.** Listen to part of the expert's talk again and fill in the missing word(s).

In developing countries, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the people use wood for cooking and heat. They cut down trees for firewood. But trees are important. They cool the land under them and keep the sun off (2) \_\_\_\_\_. When leaves fall from a tree, they make the land richer. When the trees are gone, the smaller plants die and the land becomes desert.

Humans can make deserts, but humans can also (3) \_\_\_\_\_ their growth. Algeria planted a green wall of trees across the edge of the Sahara to stop the desert sand from (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Mauritania planted a similar wall around its (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Iran puts a thin covering of petroleum on sandy areas and plant trees. Other countries build long (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to bring water to the desert areas.

### After you listen

**Work in groups.** Summarise the main ideas of the expert's talk. Use the following suggestions:

- What is a desert?
- What causes the growth of a desert?
- What should humans do to prevent the growth of deserts?

## D. WRITING

### THE SAHARA DESERT

*Study the information in the table below and write a composition about the Sahara Desert.*

<b>General information</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- largest desert in the world.</li><li>- in northern Africa</li><li>- extends from the Atlantic Ocean eastward past the Red Sea to Iraq</li><li>- lies largely in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Sudan</li></ul>
<b>Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- total area: more than 9,065,000 sq km</li><li>- 1,610 km wide and about 5,150 km long from east to west</li></ul>
<b>Natural features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- arid land, dry climate (moisture is almost totally absent), very hot in summer and very cold in winter</li><li>- few oases exist</li><li>- sandy land and large dunes of sand</li><li>- tableland with an average elevation from 400 to 500 m</li></ul>
<b>Trees and animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- few forms of animal and vegetable life</li><li>- main trees: cactus, the date palm, and a form of acacia</li><li>- main animals: gazelle, antelope, fox, jackal, camel</li></ul>



## E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

- **Pronunciation: Full and contracted forms of auxiliaries**
- **Grammar: *So, but, however* and *therefore***

### Pronunciation

- *Read the following phrases. Pay attention to how the full and contracted forms of the auxiliaries are pronounced.*

Full forms	Contracted forms	Full forms	Contracted forms
I am	I'm	I shall/will	I'll
you are	you're	you will	you'll
he is	he's	he will	he'll
she is	she's	she will	she'll
it is	it's	it will	it'll
we are	we're	we shall/will	we'll
they are	they're	they will	they'll

- *Practise reading these sentences.*

I think I'll buy a motorbike.

You'll notice that there's a girl coming.

It'll be much better if you could do it.

We'll have to talk to her.

She's feeling much better now.

They're students.

He'll be 17 next month.

### Grammar

**Exercise 1.** Add *so* or *but* and a comma where appropriate.

#### **Examples:**

It began to rain, *so* I opened my umbrella.

It began to rain, *but* he didn't open his umbrella.



1. I didn't have an umbrella \_\_\_\_\_ I got wet.
2. I didn't have an umbrella \_\_\_\_\_ I didn't get wet because I was wearing a raincoat.
3. The water was cold \_\_\_\_\_ I didn't go swimming.
4. The water was cold \_\_\_\_\_ I went swimming anyway.
5. Luan's directions to his house weren't clear \_\_\_\_\_ Binh got lost.
6. The directions weren't clear \_\_\_\_\_ Binh found Luan's house anyway.
7. Her friend lied to her \_\_\_\_\_ she still likes and trusts him.
8. Her friend lied to her \_\_\_\_\_ she doesn't trust him anymore.

**Exercise 2.** Underline the correct alternative in the following sentences.

1. Dan didn't study for the exam, *however/but* Lan did.
2. You could fly via Vienna; *but/however* it isn't the only way.
3. They have lived next door to us for years, *yet/however* we hardly ever see them.
4. My friend and I were tired, *so/however* we went home early.
5. We had wanted to stay until the end of the game, *but/however* it got too late for us.
6. I understand your point of view. *However/Although* I don't agree with it.
7. The normal pulse for an adult is between 60 and 80 beats per minute, *so/but/however* excitement will make a pulse much faster.
8. The food didn't look appetizing, *but/however* many people started eating.

**Exercise 3.** Add *so*, *therefore* or *however* where appropriate.

**Example:** It began to get dark, *so* I turned on the light.

I think, *therefore* I am.

1. He worked hard, \_\_\_\_\_ he could earn much money.
2. The shrimp was only 2 dollars a kilo this week, \_\_\_\_\_ I bought three kilos.
3. He's been studying really hard, \_\_\_\_\_ he can pass the exams.
4. She is still not good at Maths. \_\_\_\_\_ she cannot be the best student in her class.
5. OK, you can take Chemistry as your major. \_\_\_\_\_ you should remember that it is not easy to learn Chemistry.
6. The boy has chosen to do an MBA programme in Australia. \_\_\_\_\_ I think you should let him go.
7. It was already 6 p.m., \_\_\_\_\_ we closed the office and went home.
8. Advertisers often say that their products are the best. \_\_\_\_\_ the real quality is not as good as it is advertised.