

## 2A

## Exceptional people

Language Summary 2, Student's Book p137

## Gradable and non-gradable adjectives:

## Preview VOCABULARY 2.1

## 1 Choose the correct words.

- His achievement was utterly/extremely superb.
- She's an extremely/entirely busy person.
- The taste was utterly/really strong.
- I felt totally/slightly tired.
- Their story sounds extremely/absolutely awful.
- Her knowledge of history is fairly/utterly huge.
- I was rather/fully surprised by what he had done.
- This exercise is totally/very impossible.

## Intensifying adverbs VOCABULARY 2.1

## 2 Read the article and fill in the gaps. Choose the correct intensifying adverb, a, b or c.

- a deeply      **b** thoroughly      c strongly
- a completely      b vividly      c strongly
- a bitterly      b highly      c deeply
- a totally      b extremely      c bitterly
- a extremely      b vividly      c strongly
- a completely      b deeply      c firmly
- a thoroughly      b quite      c distinctly

## 3 Read sentence a. Then complete sentence b with an intensifying adverb from box A and a verb from box B.

A really firmly distinctly completely deeply

B regrets believes enjoys agrees remembers

- a "I love biographical films."  
b He really enjoys biographical films.
- a "I think Martin's absolutely right."  
b She \_\_\_\_\_ with Martin.
- a "I really wish I had listened to her advice."  
b He \_\_\_\_\_ not having listened to her advice.
- a "I have a clear memory of meeting him."  
b She \_\_\_\_\_ meeting him.
- a "In my opinion, creative talent in children must be encouraged."  
b He \_\_\_\_\_ in encouraging creative talent in children.

## I may be exceptional, but ...



Twice a year in the UK, around 3,000 exceptional people are awarded a title, award or medal to reward aspects of charitable work, service to an industry or even a specific act of bravery.

Most people, of course, are delighted to receive recognition and <sup>1</sup> b enjoy seeing their names in the papers and meeting the Queen. However, every year, about 50 people refuse an

award. Normally, these are kept secret – but recently, a list revealed over 300 famous people who have said "Thanks, but no thanks" to Her Majesty.

Some <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ believe that the honours system is ridiculous. David Bowie, the musician, who turned down a knighthood in 2003, said, "I seriously don't know what it's for." Having also refused a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 2000, it seems <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ unlikely he will ever accept any honour.

Some people must have <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ regretted refusing an award the first time because they later accepted one – examples include the author Graham Greene and the film director Alfred Hitchcock.

Others have been <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ disappointed with their award and have refused it because they expected something better. Roald Dahl, the

children's author, was offered an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), but wanted a knighthood so that his wife would get the title 'Lady Dahl'.

Many of the refusals, however, are at least in part a form of political protest. Stephen Hawking, the scientist, was <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ frustrated with the government's attitude toward scientific funding over the years. Hence, he turned down his knighthood.

Clearly there are a variety of reasons why people might do this, and not even good friends <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ agree on the subject. Mick Jagger from the Rolling Stones is now 'Sir Mick' after accepting a knighthood in 2003. However, bandmate Keith Richards refused his CBE and said, "It's not what the [Rolling] Stones is about, is it?"

**Relative clauses: Preview** GRAMMAR 2.1

**4** Join these sentences, replacing each \* with a relative clause. Make necessary changes.

1 An ex-soldier \* has become the oldest person to be awarded a PhD by Cambridge University. He is 91 years old.

*An ex-soldier, who is 91 years old, has become the oldest person to be awarded a PhD by Cambridge University.*



2 Colonel Michael Cobb's PhD \* is called *The Railways of Great Britain: A Historical Atlas*. He began it in 1978.

3 The examiner \* said, "It is a remarkable piece of scholarship." The examiner marked Michael's thesis.

4 The ceremony \* will be attended by 40 members of Michael's family. It is being held in Cambridge.

5 Michael got his first degree at Cambridge at Magdalene College \*. He studied mechanical sciences in the 1930s.

6 The Reverend Edgar Dowse \* is the oldest person in the world to receive a PhD. He received his from Brunel University in 2004, aged 93.

**Relative clauses with prepositions** GRAMMAR 2.1

**5 a** Complete the sentences with *whom* or *which* and these phrases.

I applied ~~required three years' experience~~  
I have great admiration ~~the Nobel Prize is named~~  
I complained ~~was very tall~~ I invested ~~went bust~~  
the film *Twenty-One* was based ~~he never came back~~

1 The job for *which I applied required three years' experience* .

2 My first teacher, Mr Turner, is someone for \_\_\_\_\_ .

3 The person to \_\_\_\_\_ .

4 He set off on a mission from \_\_\_\_\_ .

5 The business in \_\_\_\_\_ .

6 This is the book on \_\_\_\_\_ .

7 Dynamite was discovered by Alfred Nobel, after \_\_\_\_\_ .

**b** Rewrite the sentences in **5a** to be less formal.

1 *The job which I applied for required three years' experience.*

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

**6** Make these sentences more formal by rewriting the phrases in bold, using relative clauses with prepositions.

*to which he confessed*

1 The murder ~~which he confessed to~~ was merely one of his awful acts.

2 I would like to introduce someone **who I owe my life to**.

3 The person **who I was in correspondence with** seems to have left the company.

4 The day **that he died on** is now a national holiday.

5 His wife, **who he always collaborated with**, was at first given little credit for the discovery.

6 She loved charity work, **which her life was dedicated to**.

7 The room **which we are standing in** is where Anne wrote most of her diary.

8 The politician **who millions are protesting about** is a strong candidate for president.

**7** Choose the correct words.

1 She's got three brothers, one /all of *which/whom* I went to school with. He was incredibly intelligent.

2 I'm a big fan of hers. She's released two albums as a solo artist, *both/most* of *which/whom* I've got.

3 I can't stand where I work. My office is full of gossips, *neither/none* of *which/whom* I get on with.

4 He just isn't a very convincing actor. I've seen him in two films recently, *neither/both* of *which/whom* I've particularly enjoyed.

5 I'd read several of his books, *none/all* of *which/whom* I'd thoroughly enjoyed. So I was really looking forward to this one.

6 I was disappointed when I heard you weren't coming. However, Marta had invited over 50 people, *few/most* of *which/whom* I had met before.

7 The conference speakers were all impressive with the exception of Dr Cook. His talk, *little/few* of *which/whom* was relevant to me, was disorganised and confusing.

Adjective word order **VOCABULARY 2.2**

1 Complete the table with these adjectives.

ancient middle-aged turquoise Northern European  
 fur phenomenal frustrating gigantic West African  
 minuscule beige polyester tiring pinkish  
 elderly Mediterranean stainless steel immense

What do you think about it?	<i>phenomenal</i>
How big is it?	
How old is it?	
What colour is it?	
Where is it from?	
What is it made of?	

2 Put these words in order and add *a/an*. Use the table in 1.

- clay / Moroccan / ancient / vase *an ancient, Moroccan clay vase*
- island / Atlantic / tiny / stunning \_\_\_\_\_
- modern / inspiring / building / glass \_\_\_\_\_
- peaceful / town / medieval / medium-sized \_\_\_\_\_
- tropical / brownish / huge / fish \_\_\_\_\_
- colour / beige / Victorian / inoffensive \_\_\_\_\_
- material / greyish / stone / attractive \_\_\_\_\_

3 These phrases have too many adjectives. Rewrite them by putting the underlined words in a separate clause using *with* or *in* or a relative pronoun.

- a smart, young, dark-haired and blue-eyed man  
*a smart young man with dark hair and blue eyes*
- a breathtaking, early, signed and dated painting by Picasso  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- a massive, old Italian metal and wooden sculpture  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- a miserable, tiny, one-bedroomed 70s-built flat  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- a long, black, white-buttoned wool coat  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Verb+ing and past participles:

Preview **GRAMMAR 2.2**

4 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- worried*
- I was a little ~~worrying~~ about calling her so late.
  - Can you listen for one minute without butt in?
  - I found the level of security on to enter the building quite worrying.
  - The prize, establish according to the wishes in Alfred Nobel's will, is awarded every year.
  - Passengers to leave on the 7.30 flight should be ready for embarkation at 7.00.
  - I can't help to gossip when I get bored at work.

Participle clauses **GRAMMAR 2.2**

5 These sentences are taken from a story you will read in 7. Choose the correct connecting word.

- As /When I waited for the kettle to boil in the kitchen at my office, I listened to everyone chatting over their coffee.
- Because/So* we were faced with a night sleeping in the car, we started the long journey home.
- While/After* we had rung numerous other places, and even a campsite, we were feeling more stressed than when we had left.
- When/After* we think about that weekend, even months later, we still fail to see the funny side.
- We were bickering for over an hour, *when/so* we didn't notice how low we were on petrol.
- We agreed a short break was a good idea, *so/because* we packed a small suitcase and set off on Saturday morning.
- So/If* you looked at it from the outside, the house looked fine.
- So/While* I overheard them swap plans, I couldn't help feeling a little envious.
- The owner of the hotel was dressed entirely in black, *so/because* he didn't look the friendliest of hosts.
- Because/After* we hadn't thought that hotels would be full, we hadn't bothered to book anywhere.

6 Rewrite the sentences in 5 using a participle clause.

- a Waiting for the kettle to boil in the kitchen at my office,  
I listened to everyone chatting over their coffee.
- b Faced \_\_\_\_\_
- c Having rung \_\_\_\_\_
- d \_\_\_\_\_
- e \_\_\_\_\_
- f \_\_\_\_\_
- g \_\_\_\_\_
- h \_\_\_\_\_
- i \_\_\_\_\_
- j \_\_\_\_\_

7 Read the story. Fill in gaps 1–10 with sentences a–j from 6.



1 a . The topic of conversation was holidays. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ . My wife and I both had too much work to think about a long summer holiday. But what about a long weekend in the country? 3 \_\_\_\_\_ . By early afternoon, we were enjoying a picnic a few hours' drive from the busy city in which we live. Late in the afternoon, we started to think about somewhere to stay. 4 \_\_\_\_\_ . The nightmare began. We must have stopped at over ten hotels, none of which had any spare rooms. 5 \_\_\_\_\_ . Finally, we passed a small house with the sign 'Rooms Vacant' in the window. 6 \_\_\_\_\_ .

However, once inside, we started to feel distinctly nervous. 7 \_\_\_\_\_ . Our room, which clearly hadn't been occupied for some time, was filthy. Within a quarter of an hour we were back in the car again. 8 \_\_\_\_\_ . But the nightmare wasn't over. 9 \_\_\_\_\_ . Eventually the car stopped and we realised what was wrong. To cut a long story short, we got home at around 6 a.m. on Sunday morning and slept the entire day. 10 \_\_\_\_\_ .

8 Complete these sentences with a present participle, a past participle or a perfect participle (*Having* + past participle). Use the verbs in the box.

spend	look after	play	flick
serve	lose	wake up	need

- 1 Having spent three months in Poland as a child, I knew how hot it could get in the summer.
- 2 Even \_\_\_\_\_ on an old record player, records can sound richer than CDs.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ through a glossy magazine, I came across an article on responsible tourism.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ some time alone, he headed off to the country.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ with ice, crushed limes and sugar, it's a refreshing drink.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ at dawn and been unable to get back to sleep, I decided to go exploring.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ my passport before, I knew how terrible she felt.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ carefully, furniture of this quality should last you a lifetime.

9 These sentences have a different subject in each clause. Rewrite the underlined clauses so that the meaning is clear.

- 1 The Argentinian hotel owner and I were able to communicate, having studied Spanish at school.  
I was able to communicate with the Argentinian hotel owner, having studied Spanish at school.
- 2 Not looking where he was going, the car knocked him down.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Watching the rain from the safety of our hotel room, the street soon became flooded.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Butting in every five minutes, I became deeply frustrated with Jenny's arrogance.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Michael made me feel unappreciated, having worked day and night on the report.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describing places VOCABULARY 2.3

1 Replace the underlined words with these words.

stunning    hustle and bustle    spectacular  
golden    winding    snow-clad    heritage

- a In Edinburgh, the extremely beautiful skyline is dominated by the remains of the medieval castle stunning
- b It stretches from the typically covered in snow Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Great Britain, to the windswept Shetland Islands
- c Away from the noise and activity of Glasgow's city centre, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery is the country's premier museum and art gallery
- d In fact, it has some of the most bright yellow in colour stretches of sand in the world
- e With a set of historical features that goes back almost 10,000 years, and more than 1,000 listed prehistoric sites, the islands are an archaeologist's dream
- f Whether you are seeking historical adventure, entertainment or extremely exciting scenery, the country has a wealth of attractions
- g In between, twisting and turning roads will lead you through mountain ranges and serene lakes

Reading

2 Read the website and fill in gaps 1–7 with a–g from 1.

3 Read the website again. Are these sentences true (T), false (F) or the website doesn't say (DS)?

- 1  Edinburgh is particularly busy in August.
- 2  The Orkneys are not inhabited any more.
- 3  St Andrews has a long tradition of golf.
- 4  Loch Ness is the largest Scottish lake.
- 5  Scotland has surprisingly good weather.
- 6  Scotland's best art gallery is in Glasgow.

http://www.enjoyscotland.net/home

 There are few places that can offer you everything from intriguing prehistoric sites to the culture of a modern European city within a few hours' drive from each other. Scotland does. <sup>1</sup> f .

Northern Scotland is one of the most unspoilt parts of Britain. <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, some 150 kilometres from the most northern tip of Scotland. <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, including, of course, the massive 56 km<sup>2</sup> Loch Ness.

Feeling the need to get away from it all? The Orkneys are a group of islands just off the north-east coast of mainland Scotland. <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

to the Shetland Islands

**NORTHERN SCOTLAND**  
Inverness  
Loch Ness

**CENTRAL SCOTLAND**  
Ben Nevis  
St Andrews

**SOUTHERN SCOTLAND**  
Edinburgh  
Glasgow

Known as the lowlands, Southern Scotland is the most populated area of the country. Both the capital, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, are worth visiting. <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. And in August, the city hosts the world's largest arts festival. <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, housing works by, among others, Dalí, Rembrandt and Botticelli.

With its deserved reputation for an unforgiving climate, you may have assumed Scotland has little in the way of beaches. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. St Andrews, on the east coast in Central Scotland, and the home of golf, boasts long, broad beaches which famously featured in the opening sequence of the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.