

# 2 C

**G** comparatives and superlatives  
**V** transport and travel  
**P** stress in compound nouns

## Race to the sun

### 1 READING

a In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

- When was the last time you travelled...?  
 by train by car by plane  
 Where did you go?  
 How long did your journey take?  
 Did you have a good journey?
- In general, which of the three forms of transport do you prefer? Why?

b Read the introduction to the article, *Race to the sun*. Answer the questions with *by car*, *by train*, or *by plane*.

**Which journey do you think was...?**

the quickest \_\_\_\_\_ the most comfortable \_\_\_\_\_  
 the cheapest \_\_\_\_\_ the most convenient \_\_\_\_\_

c You're going to read about the first two journeys, but the paragraphs are not in the right order. Find the first paragraph for the plane journey, and then the other three. Do the same for the train journey. Then compare with a partner.

**The plane** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
**The train** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

d Now read about the two journeys again carefully in the right order. Answer the questions with T (the train) or P (the plane).

- |  |                          |                              |                          |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>On which journey...?</b>                          |                          | <b>Which journey was...?</b> |                          |
| 1 did the traveller have to get up earlier           | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 quicker                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 could the traveller have something to eat or drink | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 cheaper                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 was the traveller more stressed                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 more comfortable           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 could the traveller see beautiful scenery          | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 more convenient           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 did the traveller have a meal when he arrived      | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |                          |
| 6 did the traveller arrive earlier than expected     | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |                          |

### HOW WORDS WORK...

The bus **took** 45 minutes.

It **took me** just 30 minutes from home.

**How long does it take you** to get to school?

Use *take* (+ person) + time (+ *to get to*)... to talk about the duration of a journey.

Ask and answer the questions in pairs.

How long does it take you to get to work / school?

How long does it take to get from your house to the centre?

a by car b by bus / underground c on foot



**E**very year thousands of British tourists travel to the South of France for their summer holiday. But what is the best way to get there, by car, train, or plane? A British newspaper sent three of its journalists to find out. They had to travel from their homes in London to Avignon. All three travellers set off one Saturday morning in July.



**Charles** went by train (the Eurostar).



**Rosemary** flew with a 'cut price' airline.



**Martin** travelled by car.

**A** When I got to security I saw that there was an enormous queue. I began to worry that I might miss my flight, because the boarding limit is 40 minutes before take-off. I had to run to gate 48 and I arrived completely out of breath.

**B** I arrived on time! I picked up my suitcase and followed the Exit signs. It was great not to have to wait ages for my luggage or to worry about getting a bus or taxi to the city centre.

**C** We boarded. Because there are no seat numbers on these flights, everybody tries to get on as quickly as they can. I sat next to a friendly Frenchman. We took off and soon I was looking down on London. There was no meal, not even coffee, but we landed 10 minutes ahead of schedule.

**D** At 4.15 a.m. a taxi picked me up and took me 32 miles to Stansted airport. Although it was early morning, there was a lot of traffic and I arrived later than I had planned. I took my luggage to check in and asked for a window seat but the woman said there were no seat numbers.

**E** At 7.10 a.m. I arrived at Waterloo station by taxi. It took me just 30 minutes from home. I bought the papers and walked to the platform. I got on and found my seat. As soon as we started moving, I went to find the buffet car and had a cup of coffee.

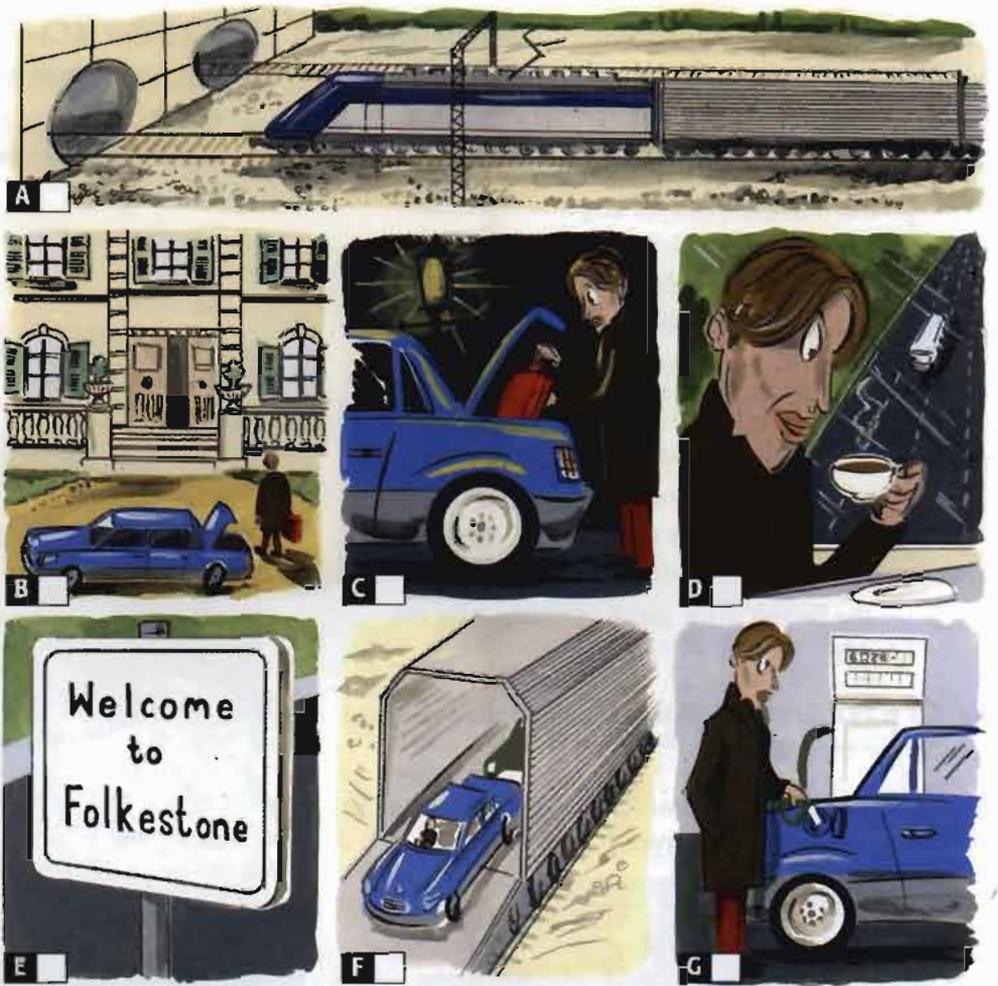
**F** Just outside the station I looked up and saw the medieval walls of Avignon's historic city centre. It was 2.20\* in the afternoon and I was just in time for a late lunch! My ticket cost £65.80, and I gave the journey 8/10 for comfort and 9/10 for convenience.

**G** I only had to wait twenty minutes for my luggage. Then I walked outside into bright sunshine and waited for the bus to Avignon, about 40 kilometres away. I didn't have to wait long and the bus took 45 minutes. It was only 11.00\* and I had the whole day in front of me. My ticket cost £63, and I gave the journey 5/10 for comfort and 5/10 for convenience.

**H** I looked out of the window. Although we were moving at 340 kilometres an hour, the journey was smooth and relatively quiet. The part where we travelled under the English Channel took just 22 minutes. Soon I was looking at the fields and farmhouses of France. The sun was shining. I closed my eyes and went to sleep.

\* France is one hour ahead of the UK.

Adapted from the British press



## 2 LISTENING

a **2.12** Listen to Martin talking about his journey from London to Avignon by car. Number the pictures 1–7.

- b Listen again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).
- 1 There's a lot of traffic in London on Saturday mornings.
  - 2 Petrol is more expensive in Britain than in France.
  - 3 There are two ways to cross the English Channel by car.
  - 4 You can't drive through the Channel Tunnel.
  - 5 The journey through the tunnel takes an hour.
  - 6 Drivers must sit in their car when they go through the tunnel.
  - 7 The speed limit on French motorways is 120 km/h.
  - 8 French motorways aren't free.
  - 9 It's 970 kilometres from Calais to Avignon.

c **2.13** Listen to Martin talking about his journey and fill in the By car column in the chart. Now compare the information with your answers in 1a.

London to Avignon	By plane	By train	By car
How long did it take? (from home)	5 hours 45 mins	6 hours 40 mins	
How much did it cost?	£63	£65.80	
Comfort /10	5	8	
Convenience /10	5	9	

d Think of a town / city in your country. How many different ways are there of getting there? Which do you think is the best? Why?

### 3 GRAMMAR comparatives and superlatives

a Read the sentences. Are the highlighted phrases right or wrong? Put a tick (✓) or a cross (✗), and correct the wrong sentences.

- 1 What's the quicker way to get to the South of France?
- 2 Driving is more boring than going by train.
- 3 Petrol isn't as cheap in Britain than in France.
- 4 Does the plane cost the same as the train?
- 5 Going by train is less expensive as flying.
- 6 It was the more comfortable hotel I've ever stayed in.
- 7 The worst month to travel through France is August.
- 8 Do the British drive more carefully than the French?

b p.132 Grammar Bank 2C. Read the rules and do the exercises.

c With a partner compare the experiences below using the bold adjectives.

- 1 **safe, exciting, healthy**  
travelling by motorbike  
travelling by car  
travelling by bike
- 2 **enjoyable, dangerous, relaxing**  
travelling by yourself  
travelling with friends  
travelling with your family
- 3 **difficult, expensive**  
learning to drive  
learning to ride a bike  
learning to ride a horse

### 4 VOCABULARY transport and travel

a Put the words into the correct column.

buffet car   check in   gate   motorway  
platform   rush hour   speed limit  
station   take off

train	car	plane
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

b p.148 Vocabulary Bank Transport and travel.

### 5 PRONUNCIATION & SPEAKING stress in compound nouns

a 2.14 Listen and repeat the compound nouns. Which word is usually stressed more?

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| traffic lights | pedestrian area |
| boarding pass  | road works      |
| car park       | rush hour       |
| car crash      | seat belt       |
| cycle lane     | speed camera    |
| parking fine   | speed limit     |
| traffic jam    | ticket office   |

b Ask and answer the questions in pairs.

### In your town / city...



## 6 LISTENING & SPEAKING

a Read the beginning of a newspaper article and then talk to a partner:

- 1 Do you (or your family) ever do any of these things while driving a car?
- 2 Which three do you think are the most dangerous? Number them 1–3 (1 = the most dangerous).



### Which of these things is the most dangerous when you're driving a car?

- making a call on your mobile
- listening to your favourite music
- listening to music you don't know
- opening a packet of crisps or a can of drink
- picking up a specific CD from the passenger seat
- talking to other passengers

A car magazine tested car drivers in a driving simulator. The drivers had to 'drive' in the simulator and at the same time do the things in the list above. The results of the tests were surprising (and worrying).

b **2.15** Now listen to a road safety expert talking about the tests. Number the activities 1–6. Were your top three right?

c Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 What should you do when you are driving?
- 2 Why is opening a packet of crisps or a can so dangerous?
- 3 What do people often do when they pick up a CD?
- 4 What gets worse when drivers are talking on the phone?
- 5 How do people drive when they are listening to their favourite music?
- 6 What happens if the music is fast and heavy?
- 7 What's the main problem when drivers talk to other passengers?
- 8 Why is listening to music you don't know the least dangerous?

d Look at the statements below and decide whether you agree or disagree. Tick (✓) the ones you agree with and put a cross (✗) next to the ones you disagree with. Think about your reasons.

**Drivers should not use any kind of phone when they are driving.**

**The minimum age for riding a motorbike should be 25.**

**People who drink and drive should lose their licence for life.**

**The speed limit on motorways should be 100 kilometres an hour.**

**Cyclists are just as dangerous as car drivers.**

**Speed cameras do not stop accidents.**

**People over 70 are more dangerous drivers than young people.**

e In groups, give your opinions on each sentence. Do you agree?

## 2A present perfect and past simple

present perfect simple: *have / has + past participle (worked, seen, etc.)*

past experiences	recent past actions	with <i>yet</i> and <i>already</i> (for emphasis)
I've <b>been</b> to London, but I <b>haven't been</b> to Oxford. She's <b>never</b> met his ex-wife. Have you <b>ever</b> lost your credit card?	I've <b>cut</b> my finger! He's <b>just</b> arrived at the airport.	I've <b>already done</b> my homework. Can I watch TV? Have you <b>finished yet</b> ? My brother <b>hasn't found</b> a new job <b>yet</b> .

- We often use *ever* and *never* when we ask or talk about past experiences. They go before the main verb.
- *just* and *already* go before the main verb in (+) sentences, *yet* goes at the end of the phrase in (-) sentences and (?).
- For irregular past participles see Irregular verbs p.156.

unfinished states (non-action verbs) which start in the past and are still true now

- A They've **known** each other **for** 10 years.  
B How long **have** they **been** married?  
A **Since** 2004.

- Use *How long...?* + present perfect to ask about an unfinished period of time (from the past until now).
- Use *for* + a period of time, e.g. *for two weeks*, or *since* with a point of time, e.g. *since 1990*.

present perfect or past simple?

I've <b>been</b> to Madrid twice. (= in my life up to now) How long <b>have</b> you <b>been</b> married to Alan? (= you are married to Alan now)	I <b>went</b> there in 1998 and 2002. (= on two specific occasions) How long <b>were</b> you married to Jake? (= you are not married to Jake now)
I've (just) <b>bought</b> a new computer. (= I don't say exactly when)	I <b>bought</b> it on Saturday. (= I say when)

- Use the present perfect when there is a connection between the past and the present.
- Use the past simple to ask or talk about **finished** actions in the past, when the time is mentioned or understood. We often use a past time expression, e.g. *January*, *last week*, etc.

## 2B present perfect continuous

present perfect continuous for unfinished actions

How long **have** you **been learning** English?  
He's **been working** here since April.  
They've **been going out** together for three years.

- *have / has been + verb + -ing*
- Use the present perfect continuous with *for* and *since* with **action verbs** (e.g. *learn*, *go*, etc.).

**A** With non-action verbs (e.g. *know*, *be*, etc.) use the present perfect simple NOT the present perfect continuous with *for* and *since*.

*I've known her for ages.* NOT *I've been knowing her for ages.*

With *live* and *work* you can use the present perfect simple or continuous with *for* and *since*.

*I've been living here for six months.*  
*I've lived here for six months.*

present perfect continuous for recent continuous actions

- A Your eyes are red. **Have** you **been crying**?  
B No, I've **been cutting** onions.

- Use the present perfect continuous for actions which have been going on very recently. They have usually just stopped.

## 2C comparatives and superlatives

comparing two things (or actions)

My sister is a bit **taller than** me.  
London is **more expensive than** Edinburgh.  
This test is **less difficult than** the last one.

Olive oil is **better for you than** butter.  
You drive **more slowly than** me.  
Liverpool played **worse today than** last week.

Flying isn't as **comfortable as** going by train.  
He doesn't smoke as **much as** she does.  
Her new car looks the **same as** the old one.

- Regular comparative adjectives / adverbs:  
*hard*>*harder*, *big*>*bigger*, *easy*>*easier*, *modern*>*more modern*, *difficult*>*more difficult*, *carefully*>*more carefully*
- Irregular comparative adjectives / adverbs: *good / well*>*better*, *bad / badly*>*worse*, *far*>*further*
- After *than* or *as* we can use an object pronoun *me*, *him*, *her*, etc. or a subject pronoun (*I*, *he*, *she*) + auxiliary verb, e.g. *She's taller than me* OR *She's taller than I am* but NOT *She's taller than I*.

superlatives

He's the **tallest** player in the team.  
Oslo is the **most expensive** capital city in Europe.  
This book is the **least difficult** to understand.  
She's the **best** student in the class.

Who drives the **most carefully** in your family?  
That's the **worst** they've ever played.

- Form superlatives like comparatives but use *-est* instead or *-er* and *most / least* instead of *more / less*.
- You normally use *the* before superlatives, but you can also use possessive adjectives, e.g. *my best friend*, *their most famous song*.

## 2A

a Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.

I've never saw *Star Wars*. I've never seen

- 1 He left quite early but he yet hasn't arrived.
- 2 We don't see each other since we left school.
- 3 Have you ever wrote a poem?
- 4 She have never been to Istanbul.
- 5 I've lent him €50 last week, but he hasn't paid me back yet.
- 6 I don't see them often but I've known them since ten years.
- 7 What year have you left school?
- 8 We're lost. We already have been down this road twice.
- 9 I sent her an email last week, but she doesn't reply yet.
- 10 They live in that house since 1980.

b Complete the dialogues with the past simple or present perfect. *I've already seen* that film twice. (already / see)

- 1 A How long \_\_\_\_\_ at university? (you / be)  
B I \_\_\_\_\_ two years ago. I'm in my third year now. (start)
- A Do you live with your parents?  
B I \_\_\_\_\_ with them for the first two years but then I \_\_\_\_\_ into a student hostel last September and I \_\_\_\_\_ there since then. (live, move, live)
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ a job yet? (your brother / find)  
B Yes, he \_\_\_\_\_ work in a hotel. (just / start)
- 3 A \_\_\_\_\_ to Nobu – that new Japanese restaurant? (you / ever / be)  
B Yes, we \_\_\_\_\_ there for my birthday. (go)
- A What was it like?  
B The food \_\_\_\_\_ fantastic but it \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune! (be, cost)

## 2B

a Make sentences with the present perfect continuous (and *for / since* if necessary).

she / work there / 2003  $\oplus$

*She's been working there since 2003.*

- 1 how long / they / go out together  $\text{?}$
- 2 I / study English / two years  $\oplus$
- 3 he / feel very well recently  $\ominus$
- 4 you / read that book / months!  $\oplus$
- 5 you / wait / a long time  $\text{?}$
- 6 we / spend much time together  $\ominus$
- 7 how long / she / live there  $\text{?}$
- 8 I / rent this flat / three years.  $\oplus$
- 9 the lift / work / 10 o'clock  $\ominus$
- 10 she / work here / a long time  $\text{?}$

b Complete with a verb from the list in the present perfect continuous.

bark cry do eat play shop not sleep watch

A Your sister's lost a lot of weight!

B Yes. She *'s been eating* a lot less recently.

1 A Your eyes are red. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_?

B Yes. I \_\_\_\_\_ a sad film.

2 A It's very late. Why aren't you in bed?

B I can't sleep. That dog \_\_\_\_\_ for the last two hours.

3 A You look tired.

B I know. I \_\_\_\_\_ well recently.

4 A Wow! You've bought a lot of things!

B Yes, we \_\_\_\_\_ all day.

5 A You look hot! What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_?

B I \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden with the children.

## 2C

a Complete with one word.

She's much more intelligent than her brother.

- 1 He's not as clever \_\_\_\_\_ he thinks he is.
- 2 It's \_\_\_\_\_ best book I've read for a long time.
- 3 The journey took longer \_\_\_\_\_ we expected.
- 4 I think it was the saddest film I've \_\_\_\_\_ seen.
- 5 Is Texas the biggest state \_\_\_\_\_ the USA?
- 6 He's the \_\_\_\_\_ selfish person I've ever met.
- 7 Your watch is the same \_\_\_\_\_ mine.
- 8 My father speaks \_\_\_\_\_ quickly than I do.
- 9 We don't go swimming \_\_\_\_\_ often as we did before.
- 10 Her brother's about 10 and she's a year younger than \_\_\_\_\_.

b Complete with the comparative or superlative of the bold word.

Mexican food is much spicier than American food. **spicy**

1 It's \_\_\_\_\_ than it was this time last year. **hot**

2 Jan's \_\_\_\_\_ of all my sisters. **competitive**

3 He's \_\_\_\_\_ person in the office. **lazy**

4 He looks much \_\_\_\_\_ with shorter hair. **good**

5 I sat next to \_\_\_\_\_ person at the party! **boring**

6 Could we meet a bit \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow? **early**

7 It was \_\_\_\_\_ film I've seen this year. **bad**

8 Sue is \_\_\_\_\_ member of my family. **ambitious**

9 The \_\_\_\_\_ way to travel is by train. **safe**

10 The beach was \_\_\_\_\_ from the hotel than we expected. **far**

# Transport and travel

## 1 Plane

Match the words and pictures.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> land (vb)          | <input type="checkbox"/> take off (vb) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> check-in desk      | <input type="checkbox"/> gate          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> luggage /'lʌdʒɪz/  | <input type="checkbox"/> (suit)case    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boarding card pass | <input type="checkbox"/> aisle /aɪl/   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baggage reclaim    |  |



## 2 Train

Match the words and pictures.

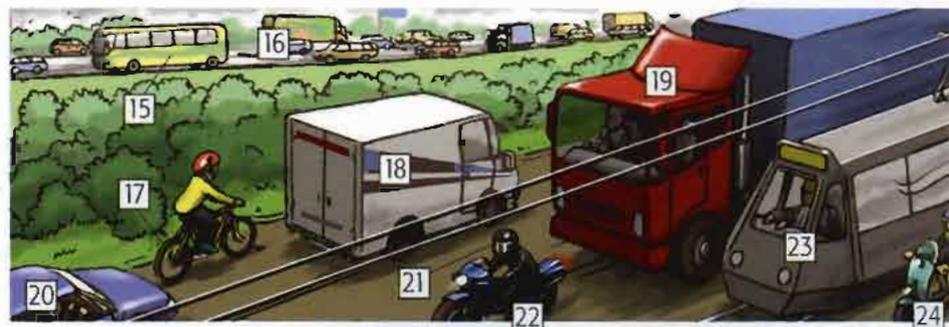
- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> railway station    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> platform           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carriage /'kærɪdʒ/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ticket office      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the underground    |



## 3 Road

a Match the words and pictures.

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> coach     | <input type="checkbox"/> bike     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lorry     | <input type="checkbox"/> car      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> van       | <input type="checkbox"/> scooter  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motorbike | <input type="checkbox"/> tram     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> helmet    | <input type="checkbox"/> motorway |



b Complete the compound nouns.

area belt crash fine hour jam lane lights  
limit park rank station transport works

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 petrol _____      | a place where you can get petrol, often with a shop or café |
| 2 traffic _____     |   |
| 3 seat _____        |   |
| 4 rush _____        | the time of day when there is a lot of traffic              |
| 5 car _____         | when two or more cars hit each other                        |
| 6 parking _____     | money you have to pay for parking illegally                 |
| 7 traffic _____     | when there is so much traffic that cars can't move          |
| 8 speed _____       |   |
| 9 public _____      | buses, trams, trains, etc.                                  |
| 10 pedestrian _____ | a place where you can't drive                               |
| 11 cycle _____      | a narrow part of the road for bicycles only                 |
| 12 road _____       |   |
| 13 taxi _____       | where taxis park when they are waiting for customers        |
| 14 car _____        | a place where you can leave your car                        |

## 4 Travel

flight journey /'dʒɜːni/  
trip travel

- A \_\_\_\_\_ is when you travel from one place to another by car, train, plane, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is normally used as a verb, e.g. I \_\_\_\_\_ a lot.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is when you go somewhere by plane.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is when you go somewhere, either for a holiday or on business, stay there, and come back again.

Can you remember the words on this page? Test yourself or a partner

p.30