

9b Pushing the boundaries

Listening

- 1 2.16 Listen to an interview about the *National Geographic* Emerging Explorers programme and answer the questions.
- 1 What is the aim of the programme?
 - 2 How does *National Geographic* help those selected?
 - 3 What sort of fields do Emerging Explorers work in?
- 2 2.16 Listen again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?
- 1 Emerging Explorers are people who are not yet fully established in their careers.
 - 2 As well as money, Emerging Explorers get publicity for their work in the magazine.
 - 3 Emerging Explorers generally have a scientific background.
 - 4 Storytellers are explorers who record traditional stories from different cultures.
 - 5 Alexandra Cousteau's grandfather filmed other Emerging Explorers.
 - 6 Alexandra is interested in how new technology can help to spread the environmental message.

Grammar relative clauses

- 3 Work in pairs. Look at the relative clauses in bold from the interview (a–e). Then discuss the questions (1–4).
- a Each year between eight and fifteen explorers, **whose work is really outstanding**, are selected.
 - b Emerging Explorers are generally people **who are at an early stage of their careers**.
 - c *National Geographic* awards each one of them US\$10,000, **which is intended to go towards further research**.
 - d The magazine is a place **where other interested people can read about their work**.
 - e There are all these people doing important work out there in the various fields **that I have described**.
- 1 In which sentences is the relative pronoun the subject of the relative clause?
 - 2 In which sentences does the relative clause explain who or what is being talked about?
 - 3 In which sentences does the relative clause give extra information and how does the punctuation help you know this?
 - 4 In which sentence could the relative pronoun be omitted?

▶ RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative pronouns: *who (that), which (that), where, whose*

Subject: *She's the woman who won the award.*
Object: *That's the award which/that the woman won.*

OR *That's the award the woman won.*

Defining relative clause

This clause contains essential information for identification.

She's the woman who won an award for her photography.

Non-defining relative clause

This clause contains extra information, separated by one or two commas.

Her husband, who is also a photographer, accompanied her on the trip.

that or zero pronoun

The article (that) I read about her was very interesting.

For further information and practice, see page 86.

- 4 Look at the grammar box. Then complete these sentences about Emerging Explorer Alexandra Cousteau by inserting the correct relative pronoun and any commas that are missing.
- 1 Alexandra Cousteau _____ is a conservationist believes water will be the most important issue of the 21st century.
 - 2 Alexandra Cousteau _____ father was an oceanographer is a great advocate for environmental protection.
 - 3 Cousteau says that the environmental movement uses communication tools _____ are old-fashioned.
 - 4 She is currently planning an expedition _____ aim is to research different water ecosystems around the world.
 - 5 She is currently working on a book _____ she hopes will teach people how to live on a 'Water Planet'.
 - 6 The problem _____ she says was created by people is a problem _____ people can only solve by working together.

Grammar reduced relative clauses

5 An alternative to a relative clause is a reduced relative clause. Look at the participles in bold in these sentences from the listening passage. Which are active and which are passive?

- We have so many different types of explorer, **chosen** from diverse fields.
- There are all these people **doing** important work out there in the various fields.
- That's the skill of the storytellers, **communicating** important facts about the planet.
- She works as a conservationist, **trying** to persuade people to protect resources like water.
- Alexandra Cousteau, **inspired** by her grandfather's success as a storyteller, is researching ways in which the environmental community can use new media.

▶ REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSES

Present participle

researching

She works in Oxford, where she is researching biology. (active)

Past participle

researched

It's a subject which is researched by only a few people. (passive)

For further information and practice, see page 86.

6 Look at the grammar box. Then rewrite the reduced relative clauses in Exercise 5 as relative clauses.

Kira Salak,

1 _____, doesn't want to tell travel stories you have already heard. Independent and adaptable, she has travelled across Papua New Guinea on foot and Alaska on a bicycle, 2 _____. It is not easy travelling alone as a single woman in remote and dangerous regions. In Mozambique she escaped soldiers 3 _____. But she does not regret such experiences, because she says they have helped her discover her strengths.



Stephon Alexander is

a theoretical physicist 4 _____. He is like 'how did space and time begin'? It's an unusual job because you need to be not only analytical and patient but also daring and a risk taker, because to answer such questions you have to make guesses. Often you can be completely wrong. But when you are right, he says, the feeling is amazing. The work can be mentally very tiring, but Alexander is quite an easy-going type. He is also a jazz musician, 5 _____.



Kenny Broad is an

extreme explorer 6 _____. These caves or 'blue holes', 7 _____, are like time capsules, full of interesting scientific evidence about the way life on our planet has evolved. The caves are also important reservoirs of fresh water. An articulate and passionate speaker, Broad promotes the idea that by working together, scientists from different backgrounds can benefit from the knowledge 8 _____.



7 Complete the profiles of other Emerging Explorers below by inserting the missing information as a reduced relative clause where possible and if not, as a relative clause.

- She has been called the real-life Lara Croft by the *New York Times*.
- She cycled a distance of 700 miles.
- They threatened to harm her.
- He is fascinated by the truly big questions.
- He plays music to take his mind off problems.
- He spends his time diving into water caves deep under the ground.
- The caves have been undisturbed for 3.5 million years.
- Knowledge is provided by these dark and wonderful places.

8 Work in pairs. Circle the eight adjectives in the profiles that describe people's strengths and qualities.

9 Which of these people would you most like to meet? Tell your partner.

Speaking and writing

10 Think of someone you admire for the work they do. Write a short description of their achievements and qualities. In groups read your descriptions to each other and ask questions.