

IELTS 1 CLASS HANDOUT

Handout 1

Present simple or continuous?

Basic differences in use

PRESENT SIMPLE

Permanent situations; things we do not expect to change:



Janice lives in London with her husband and children.

Regular actions, habits and routines:



Janice is a pilot. She flies all over the world.

Time expressions: usually, often, every day, once a month, at the weekend, most days

Permanent situations; things we do not expect to change:



Pilots usually train for about two years to get their flying licence.

To describe events in a book, play or film:



The story starts in Madrid. The main character lives there. One day, he goes out and ...

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Temporary situations, for a limited period of time:



But Janice is staying in a hotel this weekend. Time expressions: today, this week, at the moment

Actions that are happening at/around the time we are speaking:



Janice is flying to Sydney today.

Time expressions: (right) now, at the moment, today

Something that is changing:



More and more women are training to become pilots these days.

To describe what is happening in a photo or picture:



That's my niece in the photo. She's riding her brother's bike.

Action verbs

Action verbs describe an action and can usually be used in both simple and continuous forms:

Janice flies around the world. She's flying to Sydney today.

We usually drive to work, but at the moment we aren't driving because the car has broken down.

State verbs

State verbs describe states rather than actions, e.g. ways of thinking or feeling.

These verbs are not usually used in the continuous form:

- ✓ I prefer classical music to popular music.
- X I'm preferring classical music to popular music.
- ✓ Do you understand the maths homework now?
- X Are you understanding the maths homework now?

	STATE VERBS	EXAMPLES
verbs of feeling/ wanting	like love dislike hate prefer need want wish (BUT we often use enjoy in the continuous)	Does she like her present? I need a little more time. (Are you enjoying that book?)
verbs of thinking/ believing	believe doubt forget know mean realise recognise remember think understand	I don't believe in luck. Do you know the answer? We think she's really nice.
verbs of being/ appearing	appear be seem	This door appears to be locked. Maria seems very helpful.
verbs of possessing/ relating	belong contain have (got) own possess	These drinks contain Vitamin C. Duncan has two Ferraris.
sense verbs	hear see smell taste	Listen! Do you hear music? This coffee tastes really good.

The verbs *agree*, *cost*, *promise* and *thank* are also rarely used in the continuous tense: I *agree* with you. The hotel $costs \in 100$ a night.

We promise not to be late. He always thanks us with a card or flowers.

State verbs and the continuous form

We can use some state verbs in the continuous form, with a different and more active meaning:

	STATE (PRESENT SIMPLE)	ACTION (PRESENT CONTINUOUS)
have	I have two sisters. (= possess)	I'm having breakfast right now. (= eating)
think	What do you think of it? (= What's your opinion?)	What are you thinking about? (= considering at the moment)
appear	It appears that they're going to close the theatre. (= seems that/looks like)	The Gypsy Kings are appearing at the local theatre next week. (= performing)
taste	Your soup tastes wonderful! (= a quality of the soup)	I'm tasting the soup to check if it needs any more salt. (= I'm checking/testing it.)
see	Do you see the difference between the two pictures? (= can you notice it?)	Are you seeing your friends a lot at the moment? (= meeting regularly)

- We can also sometimes use state verbs in the continuous when we want to emphasise that the state is unusual or unexpected, and probably temporary:
 - My new car uses a lot of petrol so it's costing me a fortune.
 - (I don't usually spend this much on petrol.)
 - I'm finding it difficult to organise my time at the moment.
 - (This is unusual for me; I usually organise my time well.)
- Some verbs which express physical states (*feel, hurt, ache*) can be used in the simple or continuous forms with no (or very little) difference in meaning:
 - 'How do you feel/are you feeling today?' 'I feel/I'm feeling a lot better, thanks.'
 - My back aches/is aching this morning.

FORMALITY CHECK It is becoming more common to use *like*, *love* and *hate* in the continuous form in informal English: 'How's the course going?' 'It's great! I'm really loving it!' Some people consider this to be incorrect.

Practice

- Match the sentences 1-5 with the correct meaning, A or B.
 - 0 Craig works in an architect's office. —
 - 1 Rhona is staying with her aunt this weekend.
 - 2 Max sings with a band on Friday evenings.
 - 3 Steve can't talk now. He's interviewing
 - 4 More men are looking after their children these days.
 - 5 Berlin is one of Germany's sixteen states.

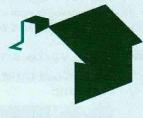
- A This is a temporary position.
- → B This is his permanent job.
 - A She usually lives somewhere else.
 - B This is her permanent home.
 - A This is a changing situation.
 - B This is something he does regularly.
 - A This is an action in progress.
 - B This is something he does regularly.
 - A This is a permanent situation.
 - B This is a changing situation.
 - A This is a fact something permanent.
 - B This is a changing situation.
- GRAMMAR IN USE Read the information about HousesittersPro. Then complete John and Angela's statement with the verbs from the box.

are enjoying are living are looking after are spending don't leave get go live spend visits work

HousesittersPro - the holiday solution

Going on holiday? Then you need HousesittensPro.

Our employees come and live in your home while you're away. They look after your property, including your garden and your pets, so that your home is safe. They are mostly retired people, and we have checked their background.



Meet John and Angela, two of our typical housesitters:

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VVE	liave	DOLLI	reurea	110111	responsible lob	S.

We (0) live in a small cottage in the country and we (1) our retirement. We (2) time in the garden most

days and we often (3) to the cinema and theatre with our friends. Our daughter

(4) _____ us with our grandchildren

now and again. But we sometimes (5)

bored, so for three months every year we

(6) _____ for HousesittersPro.

Then our life is very different. At the moment, we're in the home of a young couple who are travelling for three weeks. We (7)

in their apartment in the city, and we (8) their pets.

We (9) _____ a lot of time in front of the TV, because as

HousesittersPro employees, we (10) ______ the house for more

than a couple of hours at a time. You know that your house is safe when you have HousesittersPro in it!"

3	Choose the correct words in <i>italics</i> . In one sentence, both answers are possible. 2.57 Listen and check.						
	 O Fatima's a really good friend. She never <i>forgets is forgetting</i> my birthday. 1 Selina <i>doesn't work / isn't working</i> in her office at the moment because the builders are there. 2 Mmm. Those roses <i>smell / are smelling</i> lovely. Are they from your garden? 3 I can't believe how difficult my new course is. <i>I find / I'm finding</i> it really hard to keep up with all the reading at the moment. 4 These are difficult times because food and fuel prices <i>go up / are going up</i> quickly. 5 <i>Do you believe / Are you believing</i> anything that child says? 6 Harry isn't at work because <i>he feels / he's feeling</i> unwell. 7 In the film 'Australia' two young people <i>meet / are meeting</i> and become friends during World War II. 8 Some of the students <i>don't understand /aren't understanding</i> basic mathematical ideas. 						
4	GRAMMAR IN USE Check the verbs in the list; write A for action, S for state or A/S for action/state. Then complete the conversation with the verbs in the present simple or present continuous. Use each verb once only. 2.58 Listen and check.						
	appear A/S be enjoy feel						
	go go well have know						
	like see visit						
	JULIET I (0) feel exhausted after all that shopping!						
	KAREN So do I. I usually (1)						
	JULIET Mmm. I (2) (not often) shopping, but I really (3) it when						
	I do!						
	KAREN Let's sit here. Show me your new dress again. That's really nice. (4) it for a special occasion?						
	JULIET No, I just need to cheer myself up!						
	KAREN Oh, why? Everything (5) with your job, isn't it?						
	JULIET Well, not really.						
	KAREN Why's that? You usually (6) to be so happy in your work.						
	JULIET Well, I was at first but as you know, I (7) my family in Scotland whenever						
	I can, and these days, now that Dad's quite ill, I (8) them every weekend,						
	so I'm leaving work early every Friday to get to Scotland. My boss						
	(9) (not) that, although I work longer on other days, so we're always arguing at the moment.						
	KAREN That's a shame. What are you going to do?						
	JULIET Honestly, Karen, I (10) (not) I really like the job, but I need to be with my						
	family at the moment, too.						
5	Use the verbs in brackets to write about yourself. Choose the present simple or continuous.						
9	0 (live) I live with my parents but I'm planning to move into a flat with friends soon.						
	1 (live)						
	2 (work/study)						
	3 (enjoy)						
	4 (believe)						

Handout 2

Past continuous

Form

POSITIVE	I was waiting for you. She was travelling in the Middle East. They were living at home.
NEGATIVE	I was not (wasn't) waiting long. He was not (wasn't) travelling then. We were not (weren't) living there.
QUESTIONS	Were you waiting long? (No, I wasn't.) Were they living at home? (Yes, they were.) Where was she travelling?

Spelling rules for -ing forms ➤ page 350

Pronunciation ➤ 1.12

Past actions and situations

We use the past continuous

- to describe an action or situation happening at or around a time in the past: I wasn't feeling well that day, so I didn't go out with the others.
- for temporary past situations:

We were living in Beijing at the time of the 2008 Olympics. (We don't live there now.)

 for two actions/situations happening at the same time: While Rob was playing his match, I was waiting in the car outside.

As with the present continuous (> Unit 28.2), we can use the past continuous to criticise another person's actions, often with always:

Karla was always complaining about something or other.

Interrupted actions

We use the past continuous and the past simple together to show that one action (past simple) interrupts another action (past continuous):

The bus was going too fast

We were having dinner

and it hit the car.

when she arrived. (The continuous action stops.) (The continuous action doesn't stop.)

Freya Stark was a travel writer who spent much of her life travelling in the Middle East. While she was travelling, she was constantly taking notes and photographing places and people, so her travel books are very personal.

Plans that did not happen

The past continuous of verbs like plan, hope, intend shows that the action did not happen: We were planning to come to your party, but Mike was ill so we couldn't make it. I was hoping to study medicine, but my grades weren't high enough so I couldn't.

was going to > Unit 45.1

Background situations

We often use the past continuous to describe a 'background' situation in the past: When we arrived at the beach, the sun wasn't shining.

We also use the past continuous to 'set the scene' for a story or account of something that happened; the actions that follow are in the past simple: Dana was living in Istanbul that summer. Isik was working at the same school as her. As soon as they met, they immediately got on with each other ...

We don't usually use continuous forms of state verbs (e.g. like, see, hear, think, agree). (> Unit 29.3)

Time.			
	See and	cti	-
1			

1	Write the words in the correct order to make sentences. Put the verbs in the past
	continuous.

0	at that man you why stare ?	Why were you staring at that man?
1	not work during the strike there they	
2	where you at the start of the year live	?
3	not feel yesterday evening I very well	
4	heavily it rain and the rivers rise	·

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Read the article and choose the correct words in *italics*.

3 2.61 Listen and check.

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A.F.F	1					
	0	10 X	1			

At 3.30 p.m. yesterday a large meteorite (0) crashed/was crashing to Earth near the small town of Karlsville, Texas. Many local people (1) was / were doing things outside and (2) were seeing / saw it happen. Here are a couple of their reports: "I (3) washed / was washing my car when I (4) noticed / was noticing a bright light in the sky. I (5) didn't know / wasn't knowing what it was."

"We (6) were / did driving home from the shopping mall when we (7) heard / were hearing a loud bang. When we looked up we could see smoke coming from the middle of a nearby field."

It seems that whatever people (8) did / were doing, they (9) stopped / were stopping and (10) rushed / were rushing to the site of the crash. Local police said that this was foolish but that nobody was hurt.

GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with words and phrases from the box. There are four extra words or phrases. (3) 2.62 Listen and check.

always asked became didn't know fell played was always asking was becoming was hoping was intending was planning was playing wasn't knowing weren't planning

ALLA	When's	vour	trip to	Namibia?	Isn't it soon?
------	--------	------	---------	----------	----------------

5 she talk always while I watch TV

- Well, I (0) was intending to go in April, but everything's changed. You see, I

 (1) to go with Jana, from work, but she broke her wrist a while ago.
- ALLA I (2) that.
- SUE Yes, she (3) ______ netball with some people from work in November when she (4) _____ over. She landed on her wrist, and it was quite a bad break.
- ALLA Mmm, but surely she's had enough time to recover?
- SUE Yes, well, that wasn't the only problem. She was really starting to get on my nerves.
- ALLA Oh, why?
- Sue She (5) stupid questions, things like: 'Should I take my hairdryer?'
 We (6) to go to Ibiza, after all!
- ALLA Oh dear ...
- SUE So ... the broken wrist (7) a good excuse! Are you going away this year?
- ALLA Oh, well, I (8) to visit my friend in Crete for a couple of weeks, but we hadn't discussed it and she's just told me that she's coming back soon ...

Past simple or continuous?



Dr Livingstone was a Scottish explorer, famous for his work in Africa. While he was searching for the source of the River Nile, he disappeared. He had been quite ill, so people were worried about him, but he was found by Henry Stanley. He was still trying to find the source of the Nile when he died in 1873.

Completed or unfinished actions?

PAST SIMPLE	PAST CONTINUOUS
We use the past simple for single or repeated completed actions in the past:	We use the past continuous to describe an unfinished action at or around a time in the past:
We arrived at the hotel at three o'clock.	When we arrived at the hotel, the maid was cleaning our room.
He went on many expeditions to Africa.	He was searching for the source of the Nile.

Interrupted past or series of past actions?

We use the past continuous for an action in progress when something else happened: While he was searching for the source of the River Nile, he disappeared.

'Were you playing football when you sprained your ankle?' 'No, I wasn't doing anything like that. I was running downstairs and I tripped over my trousers!'

We use *when* + past simple, followed by past simple, when one action happened AFTER another one. Compare:

When Isabel joined us, we watched a DVD. (= Isabel came and then we watched a DVD.) When Isabel joined us, we were watching a DVD. (= We were already watching a DVD at the time Isabel came.)

when and while

We can use either *when* or *while* before an unfinished action or the interrupted past. It means 'during the time':

The post came when I was having my breakfast.

While he was searching for the source of the River Nile, he disappeared.

We can use *when* before the unfinished (continuous) or the completed (simple) action: *He was trying to find the source of the Nile when he died in 1873.*

He died in 1873 when he was trying to find the source of the Nile.

We don't use *while* before a completed action:

X While the post came, I was having my breakfast.

✓ When the post came, I was having my breakfast.

✓ The post came while/when I was having my breakfast.

We can use as instead of while:

As/While I was driving to work this morning, I saw a deer by the side of the road.

Practice

1 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences, using the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple or past continuous. 10 2.63 Listen and check.











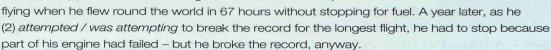
0	When we arrived	at the resort,	it was raining	(arrive, fall)
1	We v	vhen the storm		(run, start)
2	We fe	or shelter when the	e storm	(run, start)
3	I the	bank when the rol	bber	(leave, arrive)
4	I the	bank when the rol	bber	(leave, arrive)

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Read the article and choose the correct words in *italics*. 30 2.64 Listen and check.

Steve Fossett

Steve Fossett was always looking for adventure, even as a boy in the 1950s. After some years in business, he (O) began was beginning his well-known adventures, from swimming the English Channel to sailing round the world. But Fossett is best-known for his adventures in the air – in hot-air balloons, gliders and light aircraft.

In 2005 he (1) broke / was breaking the record for non-stop



Fossett's adventures often put him in danger – in 1998, while he (3) travelled / was travelling around the world in a balloon, he almost died (4) while / when the balloon fell from the sky. In the end, it was a routine flight that (5) took / was taking his life – he was flying a small plane across the Nevada Desert in September 2007 when he (6) disappeared / was disappearing. No one could find him, then, some months later, a hiker (7) walked / was walking through the mountains in southern California when he (8) noticed / was noticing some personal items which (9) belonged / were belonging to the adventurer, and soon afterwards a search party (10) found / was finding the wreckage of the plane. Some time later, Fossett's body was found – his adventures were over.



ADVENTURER

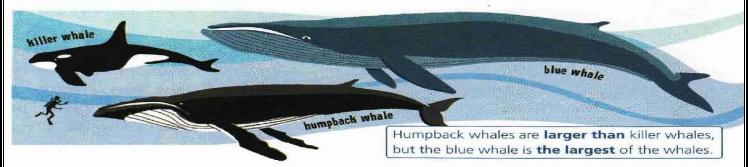
-	Sec. 201				1.0	
3	Write	true	answers	to	the	questions.

5 you lost your temper?

-	the trace and the trace questions.	
W	hat were you doing, or what was happ	pening when
O	you received your last text message?	I was watching TV.
1	you received your last text message?	
2	you lost something important?	
3	you saw something unusual?	
4	you heard some shocking news?	

handout 3

Comparison of adjectives



Comparative and superlative forms

	COMPARATIVE (two things)	SUPERLATIVE (more than two things)
adjectives with one syllable ¹	add -(e)r : arge → arger small → smaller young → younger fast → faster	add -(e)st: large \rightarrow the largest small \rightarrow the smallest young \rightarrow the youngest fast \rightarrow the fastest
adjectives with two or more syllables ²	use more/less + adjective: useful → more/less useful expensive → more/less expensive interesting → more/less interesting	use the most/the least + adjective: useful → the most/least useful expensive → the most/least expensive interesting → the most/least interesting
irregular adjectives	bad → worse good → better far → farther/further well (= healthy) → better	$bad \rightarrow the worst good \rightarrow the best$ $far \rightarrow the farthest/furthest$

¹ Sometimes the spelling changes: $dry \rightarrow drier/the driest$, $big \rightarrow bigger/the biggest$ (see page 351)

² Adjectives with two syllables where the second syllable is unstressed (often ending in -y, -ly, -ow, or -l) can sometimes form the comparative and superlative in the same way as one-syllable adjectives: friendly \rightarrow friendlier/the friendliest, gentle \rightarrow gentler/the gentlest, funny \rightarrow funnier/the funniest

Comparative adjectives

We use comparative adjectives to compare two things. When we use a comparative adjective in front of a noun we add *than*:

X Humpback whales are larger killer whales. X Humpback whales are larger of killer whales.

✓ Humpback whales are larger than killer whales.

We use object pronouns (me, her, etc.), not subject pronouns (I, she, etc.) after than: Maria is taller than Anna. \times Maria is taller than she. \checkmark Maria is taller than her.

We don't use more or less with an adjective that is already comparative:

X Kevin is more taller than Sue. X Sue is less taller than Kevin.

We can use two comparatives to show that something is changing.

The weather is getting hotter and hotter.

Food is becoming more and more expensive these days.

Pronunciation ➤ 1.06

Superlative adjectives

We use superlative adjectives to compare more than two things. We use *the* or a possessive adjective (*my/your/his*, etc.) before the superlative form:

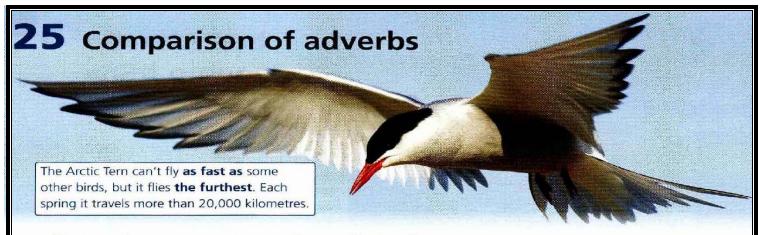
Blue whales are the largest whales. What was your best subject at school?

After superlatives we use *in* before singular nouns (i.e. the name of a place or group): The blue whale is the largest creature *in the world*. Ben is the oldest player *in the team*.

But we use of before plural nouns:

The blue whale is the largest of the whales. Ben is the oldest of the players.

0 0 1 7 2 1 3 1 4 7	e the words below to w Canada / big / Britain. This towel / dry / that o	rite comparativ	ve sentences.
1 7 2 1 3 1 4 7			
2 1 3 1 4 7	This towel / dry / that o		Canada is bigger than Britain.
3 1 4 7			
4	Magazines / interesting	/ newspapers	
	My spelling / bad / Lucy	y's	
	The airport / far / the ra	ilway station	
5 I	Paris / beautiful / Berlin		
6 5	Steak / good / lamb		
Use	e the words below to w	vrite superlative	e sentences. 🔊 2.41 Listen and check.
O	France / large country /	the European U	nion France is the largest country in the European Unio
	Mario / old student / m		
	Selima / tallest / the ath	*	
3	New York / big city / No	orth America	
	That / beautiful tree / t		
	Harry / experienced / tl	0	
	Mine / nice / the rooms		
	'We only have four working	g elephants here a	smaller at Songklan so it is more small than the other elephant
1	farms in the area. The large elephants here have differe came from Chaing Rai in th wood. But he's very greedy	est elephant farm int backgrounds a ne north of the co . He eats a lot mo ghteen years old l	of this part of Thailand has 30 elephants! The four and personalities. Mao-Mao travelled the most far; he nuntry. Changra is the goodest worker, he loves lifting are than the others! Selma is the most bad worker, but each year she gets lazier and more lazier! Tanan is
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Regular comparative and superlative forms

We use more + adverb (+ than) to make comparative forms of adverbs of manner and of the adverbs often, rarely and frequently:

I eat more slowly than other people.

Can you speak more quietly? I'm trying to rest.

You see foxes in towns more frequently these days.

We make superlative forms of adverbs with (the) most + adverb:

Daniel has the highest phone bill because he uses his phone (the) most often.

The opposite of *more/the most* + adverb is *less/the least* + adverb:

I go to the dentist less regularly than I used to.

Of all the heaters in the test, the MaxHeat worked the least efficiently.

2 Other comparative and superlative forms

Some adverbs have the same comparative and superlative forms as adjectives:

 $early \rightarrow earlier/(the)$ earliest $fast \rightarrow faster/(the)$ fastest

 $high \rightarrow higher/(the) highest$ $late \rightarrow later/(the)$ latest

 $low \rightarrow lower/(the) lowest$ $near \rightarrow nearer/(the)$ nearest

hard → harder/(the) hardest

 $long \rightarrow longer/(the) longest$

 $soon \rightarrow sooner/(the)$ soonest

⚠ We don't use *more/the most* with these adverbs:

X Cats can climb more high than dogs. ✓ Cats can climb **higher** than dogs.

X Borzov ran the most fast in the race. ✓ Borzov ran the fastest in the race.

There are some irregular comparative and superlative adverbs:

 $well \rightarrow better/(the) \ best \ badly \rightarrow worse/(the) \ worst \ far \rightarrow farther/further/(the) \ farthest/furthest$

Do you live further from college than me? I played worse than usual vesterday.

The Arctic Tern flies the furthest. Karl played best in last Saturday's match.

NATURAL ENGLISH We often leave out *the* in superlative adverbs, especially irregular ones: Karl played best in last Saturday's match.

We don't use superlative adverbs very often; we prefer to use a superlative adjective: Karl played best in last Saturday's match. → Karl was the best player.

3 as + adverb + as

We use (not) as + adverb + as to compare two actions: I speak Polish as fluently as Tomas. The Arctic Tern can't fly as fast as some other birds.

4 Making comparisons stronger or weaker

We can make the meaning of comparative adverbs stronger with *much*, *a lot* and *far*: My grandmother has been walking much more slowly since her accident.

I exercise far less often than my brothers. Athletes have to train a lot harder these days.

We can make comparisons weaker with a bit, slightly or a little:

Computers work a little faster if you add memory to them. Can you come a bit sooner? On Sundays trains run slightly less frequently than during the week.

	-	actice
		mplete the sentences with a comparative (C) or superlative (S) form of the adverb in ckets.
(0	I'm putting on weight – I should go to the gym more often (C often)
0	0	Which website sells airline tickets the most cheaply ? (S cheap)
	1	Which bird flies? (S high)
	2	Children need to visit a dentist than adults do. (C frequent)
	3	Who sang on the show yesterday? (S good)
	4	Of all the cars in the test, the Mazda went (S fast)
	5	Please speak – I can't understand you. (C slow)
	6	Which type of battery lasts? (S long)
	7	You've made lots of mistakes. Please work next time. (C careful)
	8	Don't get the ten o'clock train. It arrives than the others. (C late)
		mplete the second sentence so it means the same as the first, using the word in brackets two to five words in your answer. 3 2.49 Listen and check.
O		I don't use the Internet as often as my colleagues. (less)
		I use the Internet less often than my colleagues.
1		Computers work much faster than they used to. (as)
		Computers didn't use to they do now.
2		I think Carreras sang better than the others. (best)
		I think Carreras
3		Sue doesn't speak Spanish as fluently as I do. (more)
		I speak Spanish
4		Ali played the worst in the golf tournament. (player)
		Ali in the golf tournament.
		The state of the s
5		reoble wear formal clothes less frequently these days. (as)
5		People wear formal clothes less frequently these days. (as) People don't wear formal clothes they used to.
	GF	
	el; tr	People don't wear formal clothes
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Handout 4

Listen and answer questions 1-10.

Questions 1-6

Label the map opposite.

Write the correct letter, A-I, next to questions 1-6.

- 1 gift shop
- 2 beehives
- 3 holiday cottages
- 4 dairy
- 5 museum
- 6 estate office

