READING AND SPEAKING

Into the wild

1 Describe what you can see in the photograph. Which country do you think it is? What makes life difficult for people who live here?

2 Read the introductory paragraph and the words in **bold**. In pairs, decide whether these statements are true (✓) or false (✗).

- Chris McCandless died very young.
- He was killed by hunters.
- He didn't enjoy his life.
- He loved nature and a simple life.
- He wanted to die.
- He knew he was dying.

What do you want to know about Chris?

3 Read to the line ending "… *Thank you!' his diary reads.*" and answer the questions.

1 Did Chris keep in touch with his parents? When did they last hear from him?
2 Why did he get rid of his car and burn his money?
3 What did he need? What didn't he need?
4 In what way was his life rich?

4 Read to the line ending "… *I didn't know where he was.*" Choose the best answer.

1 Chris didn't get on with his father because his father
☐ had a lot of money.
☐ didn't let Chris work in the family business.
☐ tried to tell Chris what to do.

2 When the parents didn't hear from Chris,
☐ the police got in touch with them.
☐ they got in touch with the police.
☐ they did nothing.

3 In July 1992
☐ his mother dreamt that she heard Chris calling her.
☐ his mother is sure that she heard Chris calling her.
☐ Chris phoned his mother for help.

5 Read to the end. Correct the mistakes in this summary.

> Chris got the train to Alaska, and arrived in May, 1992. He lived in a bus, and there was a bed and a bath in it. He was very happy. There was lots to eat – small animals, and fruit and vegetables, which he grew himself.
>
> After five months of living alone, he started to feel ill. He had no strength because he was eating poisonous plants, but he didn't know that this was the reason. He continued eating. He died of food poisoning.
>
> He knew he was dying. He wrote a letter to his parents, and took a photo of himself. He seemed happy to die in these circumstances.

What do you think?

- What was important to Chris? What wasn't important?
- What do you think he was trying to do?
- Why do young people feel the need to break away from their parents?

In April 1992, Chris McCandless, a young man from a wealthy American family, hitchhiked to Alaska. Four months later, his dead body was found by a group of hunters. Jon Krakauer investigated the story.

When Chris McCandless graduated from Emory University, Atlanta, in June 1990, he sent his parents a letter containing his final reports. His letter ended 'Say 'Hi' to everyone for me.'

No one in Chris's family ever heard from him again.

He drove west out of Atlanta, and invented a new life for himself with a new name. He left his car in some woods and burned all his money, because, as he wrote in his diary, '**I need no possessions. I can survive with just nature.**'

For the next two years, he hitched to various parts of the United States and

Into the wild

Mexico. He wanted the freedom to go where he wanted and to work when he needed. For him, his life was very rich. '**God, it's great to be alive. Thank you! Thank you!**' his diary reads.

Chris came from a comfortable background. His father had a business which he ran efficiently, and he controlled his own family in a similar way. Chris and his father didn't get on. When his parents didn't hear from him for several months, they contacted the police, but they could do nothing. In July 1992, two years after Chris left Atlanta, his mother woke in the middle of the night. 'I could hear Chris calling me. I wasn't dreaming. He was begging, 'Mom! Help me!' But I couldn't help him because I didn't know where he was.'

'I need no possessions. I can survive with just nature.'

Chris's dream was to spend some time in Alaska, and this is where he went in April 1992. In early May, after a few days in the Alaskan bush, Chris found an old bus which hunters used for shelter. It had a bed and a stove. He decided to stay there for a while. '**Total freedom,**' he wrote. '**My home is the road.**'

However, reality soon changed the dream. He was hungry, and it was difficult to find enough to eat. He shot ducks, squirrels, birds, and sometimes a moose, and with these he ate wild potatoes, wild mushrooms, and berries. He was losing a lot of weight.

On July 30 he wrote, '**Extremely weak. Fault of potato seed. Can't stand up. Starving. Danger.**' It seems that Chris was eating a part of the wild potato plant that was poisonous. He couldn't get out of the bus to look for food. '**I am trapped in the wild,**' he wrote on August 5.

He became weaker and weaker as he was starving to death. His final note says, '**I have had a good life and thank the Lord. Goodbye and may God bless all!**'

Then he crawled into his sleeping bag and lost consciousness. He probably died on August 18. One of the last things he did was to take a photo of himself, one hand holding his final note, the other hand raised in a brave goodbye. His face is horribly thin, but he is smiling in the picture, and the look in his eyes says 'I am at peace.'

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

It was just a joke

1 In Britain, your eighteenth birthday is important, because it is the birthday when you become an adult. Which birthdays are special in your country? What do people do?

2 You will hear a boy called Jamie describing what he did on his friend's eighteenth birthday. It was just a joke, but it looked serious! Look at the pictures. What do you think happened? Check that you know these words.

to kidnap	a balaclava	to tie up	a blindfold	a witness

3 **T 10.6** Listen to Jamie being interviewed. Does he tell the story in the same order as the pictures?

4 Answer the questions.

1 Identify these people in the pictures.

Tom	Jamie	Dave	Andrew	the witness

2 Imagine who says these lines in the story.

- I've had a really good idea for Tom's birthday!
- Lie on the ground! Don't move!
- Please let me go!
- Send the police immediately!
- Come and help. This looks really serious.
- Happy birthday, dear Tom!
- You *****s! I thought you were my friends!
- I knew it was you from the beginning!
- Excuse me, gentlemen. Can I just ask you a few questions?
- I think we have a bit of a confession to make.

Roleplay

With a partner, roleplay one of these conversations and retell the story.

- Tom talking to his girlfriend
- the witness talking to the emergency services
- Jamie talking to the policeman

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Exclamations with *so* and *such*

1 **T 10.7** Read and listen to the sentences.

Tom was scared. He was very scared. He was so scared!

Do you think this use of *so* is more written or spoken? What effect does it have?

2 Look at the sentences. When do we use *so, such a(n), such, so many,* and *so much*?

We were all *so worried*!
Mike's *such an idiot*!
It was *such a good idea* of Jamie's!
He has *such crazy friends*!
We had *such awful weather* on holiday!
There are *so many places* I want to go to!
I've got *so much work*!

3 Complete the sentences in **A** with *so, such a, such, so many,* or *so much*. Then match them with the sentences in **B**.

A	B
1 Their house is _____ mess!	I could eat a horse.
2 There were _____ people at the party!	I don't know where it's all gone.
3 I'm _____ hungry!	You really didn't have to.
4 Jane and Pete are _____ nice people!	She understands every word I say.
5 I've spent _____ money this week!	There was nowhere to dance.
6 A present! For me? You're _____ kind!	Thank you so much for inviting us.
7 We've had _____ nice time!	But I can't stand their kids.
8 Molly's _____ clever dog!	I don't know how they live in it.

T 10.8 Listen and check. Practise the exclamations.

4 What can you say ... ?

- at the end of a long journey

- when you finish an interesting book with a sad ending
- as you go round a friend's new flat
- at the end of a wonderful meal
- in a row with your boyfriend/girlfriend
- at the end of a great English lesson