

1A | A fresh start

SPEAKING

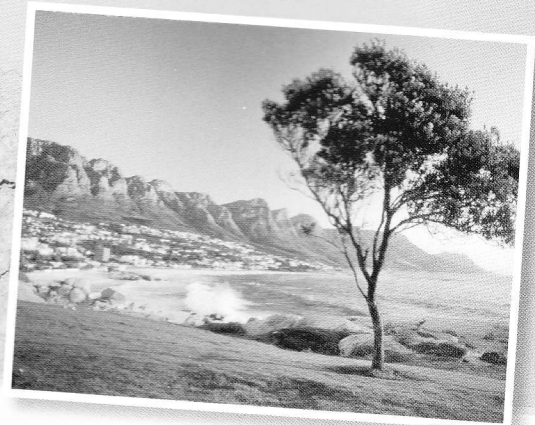
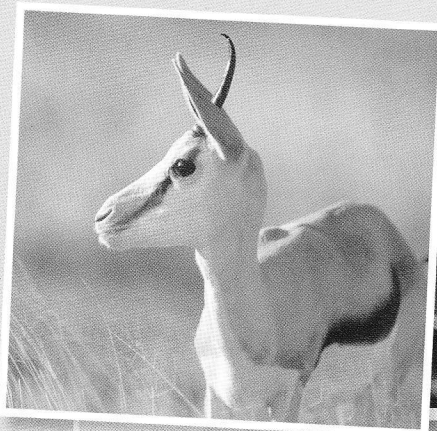
- 1 Work in groups. Look at the photos and share your knowledge of South Africa. Use the ideas in the box to help you.

cities history things to see and do
sports climate languages

- 2 Work in pairs (A and B) with a student from another group. You are going to ask and answer questions about South Africa.

A: Turn to page 138. B: Turn to page 155.

- 3 Ask each other your questions.



A

WHAT BETTER WAY to satisfy the yearning for beauty and travel than fly to the opposite end of the planet for plastic surgery, followed by recuperation in the privacy of a South African game park? Three years after setting up her company, *Surgeon and Safari*, Lorraine Melville is taking clients from all over the world, notably Britain.

The appeals are obvious. Britons who spend £200 million on cosmetic surgery each year have woken up to the fact that operations in Johannesburg or Cape Town can be a third of the price at home. A full face-lift, fourteen nights at Johannesburg's swanky Westcliff hotel and a chauffeur comes to less than £6,000.

Potential clients are sent a medical questionnaire and interviewed about their motivation. Those who expect the operation to transform their lives, find a partner, become happy, are advised it will not. From the airport they are shuttled to their hotel and often operated on the next day, giving a week or two for bruises to fade before returning home to a (hoped for) shower of compliments on how well they look after their holiday.

READING

- 1 Read the texts A-C and answer the questions.

- 1 What type of **change** does each text illustrate?
- 2 In what type of **publication** might you expect to find each text? Give reasons for your opinions.

- 2 Read the texts again and answer the questions.

Text A 1 Why do Britons travel to South Africa for cosmetic surgery?

- 2 What are clients told before they undergo surgery?

Text B 1 Why did Angie decide to emigrate to South Africa?

- 2 How did her friends react to her decision? Why?

Text C 1 Why, according to the text, was there an increase in crime in 1990s South Africa?

- 2 What was the significance of Nelson Mandela's gesture?

B

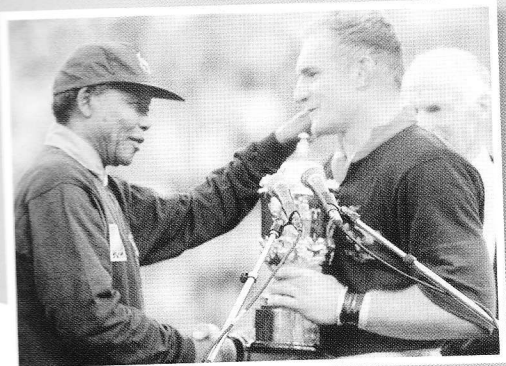
There had been more than a few raised eyebrows when she'd announced her decision to go. The congratulations had lacked spontaneity, the smiles were forced. And if her friends' reactions had caused her on occasion to question the wisdom of what she was doing, she had been determined not to show it. Anyway, it was too late now – the house had been sold, the money divided up with her ex-husband, the leaving party held and the promises made to keep in touch. South Africa was such a long way, they'd all concurred. She had no roots there, no friends, no contacts. Would she be safe on her own? But Angie needed to break with the past, with the painful memories of a failed marriage, and start a new life abroad. Europe was ruled out – she spoke no languages – and America was too expensive. The Cape coast had it all: the weather, the lifestyle, the food. And there were plenty of Brits to make her feel at home.

3 Match the highlighted verbs in the texts to the definitions a-i.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| a agree | f greet enthusiastically |
| b share out | g start |
| c have a widespread effect | h not consider as a possibility |
| d cost in total | i take (regularly, from one place to another) |
| e put on | |

4 Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.

- How popular is cosmetic surgery in your country? What are the main reasons for having it?
- Would you ever consider living abroad? Why or why not?
- What major changes have taken place recently in your country? Have these changes been for the better or for the worse?



In South Africa the public mood had shifted from the euphoria of the post-apartheid liberation, when the world in the early 1990s marvelled at the South Africans' ability to bury the past and to hail a common future, to more worrying concerns of unemployment and violence. The threats to the new South African state no longer came from the white far right, but in the transition from the tight controls of apartheid. Violent crime was on the rise – not only robberies and car-hijacking but outright murders.

President Nelson Mandela continued to stand as the embodiment of hope for the future and a moral authority recognized by virtually everyone in the country. In June 1995, in one of the remarkable images of our time, he donned the green and gold jersey of the Springboks, the mainly white rugby team that had symbolized diehard Afrikaner nationalism, thus sending a message that reverberated around the world: South Africa would continue the miracle of transformation from apartheid to a democratic and egalitarian society.

VOCABULARY & SPEAKING: change

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- Which of these do you know how to change?
 - a nappy • a tyre • a lightbulb • a plug
- Which of these would you like to change?
 - your name • your image • your lifestyle
- What changes, if any, would you make to the following? Why?
 - your home • your school or workplace
 - your town or local area

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of a verb in the box.

adapt alter convert shift
switch transfer transform vary

- 1 I have no idea what the current rate is for ____ my country's **currency** **into** sterling.
 - 2 I need to ____ my **diet** more – I always eat the same things.
 - 3 I often channel-hop when I watch TV, ____ between **channels** to see what's on.
 - 4 I don't ____ **easily to new situations**.
 - 5 I get my mother to ____ my **clothes** if they don't fit properly.
 - 6 The internet has **radically** ____ my **life**.
 - 7 I cannot understand why such vast sums of money are involved when a **football player** ____ **from one club to another**.
 - 8 I think the focus of language lessons should ____ **away from** grammar and **towards** more vocabulary learning.
- 3 Work in pairs. Discuss the sentences in exercise 2. How true are they for you?

