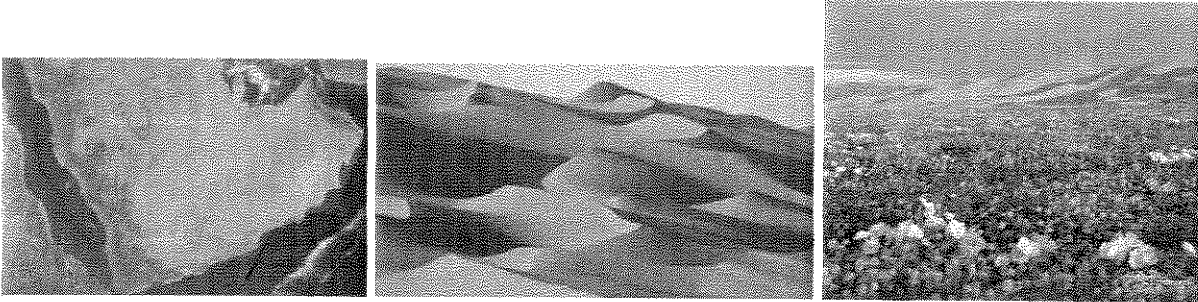


Listening: The Empty Quarter or Rub- Al Khali

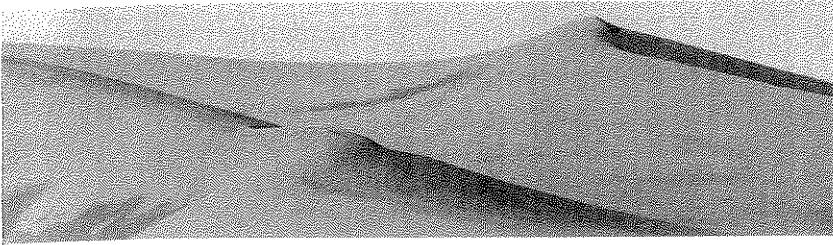


A. Listen and fill in the gaps below:

1. Most people think The Empty Quarter is a typical desert because it is hot, _____ and has lots of _____.
2. Some of the sand dunes are _____ tall.
3. The temperatures in The Empty Quarter go as high as _____ in summer.
4. The Bedouin travelled to the _____ in the summer.
5. There are also strong _____ in the desert.
6. There is not a lot of _____ but sometimes there can be a big _____.
7. After heavy rain, the desert can look like a big _____ because there are lots of _____ and _____.

B. Discussion Point: After listening tell a partner what you like to do in the desert.

The Empty Quarter



Arabia's **Empty Quarter** fits most people's idea of a desert: hot, dry, and lots of sand dunes. The



Bedouin who live there call it "ar-Ramlah" or "The Sand" but most other people know it by the name Rub al-Khali. Some of the sand dunes are 240 metres tall and one sand dune can extend for 50 kilometres.

The temperature in the Empty Quarter goes as high as 54° in the summer. No wonder the area is empty then. At that time of year in the past, the Bedouin would travel to the sea **coast** because the **weather** was more **comfortable** there. By contrast, winter temperatures can go down to **freezing** at times. The Empty Quarter is famous for strong **winds**, so with wind, the temperature can seem even colder.

There is very little **rain** and sometimes years go by before there is a big rainstorm. After the

rain, desert plants quickly produce flowers. A week after a rainstorm, the desert looks like a garden with grass and flowers but this is just **temporary**. In the dry **heat**, the plants sleep until it rains again.

Vocabulary Box

- coast** = where the land meets the sea
- comfortable** = nice
- freezing** = when water goes hard (changes to ice)
- dry** = no water, not wet
- empty** = nothing in it
- heat** = noun from hot
- rain** = water from the sky
- temporary** = for a short time, not permanent
- weather** = sun, clouds, rain, wind
- wind** = moving air

Comprehension questions

1. Name three ways that the Empty Quarter fits most people's ideas about deserts.
2. How big are some sand dunes? Compare this to a building you know.
3. What is the difference in degrees between summer and winter temperatures?
4. Why does it sometimes feel colder than it really is?
5. What changes when it rains in the desert?