Unit 93   -ing and -ed clauses ('the girl talking to Tom', 'the man injured in the accident')

a   A *clause* is a part of a sentence. Some clauses begin with -ing or -ed:

- Do you know the girl | talking to Tom | ? (-ing clause)

- The man | injured in the accident | was taken to hospital. (-ed clause)

b   We use -ing clauses to say what someone (or something) is doing or was doing at a particular time:

- Do you know the girl talking to Tom? (the girl is talking to Tom)
- The policemen investigating the robbery are looking for three men. (the policemen are investigating the robbery)
- I was woken up by a bell ringing. (the bell was ringing)
- Who was that man standing outside? (the man was standing outside)
- Can you hear someone singing? (someone is singing)

For see/hear someone doing something see Unit 66.

When you are talking about *things* (and sometimes people), you can use an -ing clause for permanent characteristics (what something does all the time, not just at a particular time):

- The road joining the two villages is very narrow. (the road joins the two villages)
- I live in a pleasant room overlooking the garden. (the room overlooks the garden)

c   -ed clauses have a *passive* meaning:

- The man injured in the accident was taken to hospital. (the man was injured in the accident)
- None of the people invited to the party can come. (the people have been invited to the party)

Injured and invited are *past participles*. Many verbs have irregular past participles which do not end in -ed. For example: stolen/made/bought/written etc.:

- The money stolen in the robbery was never found. (the money was stolen in the robbery)
- Most of the goods made in this factory are exported. (the goods are made in this factory)

For a full list of irregular verbs see Appendix 2.

d   We often use -ing and -ed clauses after there is / there was etc.:

- Is there anybody waiting to see me?
- There were some children swimming in the river.
- When I arrived, there was a big red car parked outside the house.

For more information about -ing clauses see Unit 67.

the garden)