

# 4c

## Develop your listening

► **Goal:** understand a short radio programme

► **Focus:** understanding weak forms



**1 a** Look at the photo and discuss the questions.

- 1 Where do you think the people are?
- 2 Is life easy or difficult in this place? Why?

**b** **4.11** Listen to a radio programme about life in very cold places. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 It's sometimes  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  in Calgary.
- 2 People in Calgary need to wear sunglasses in winter.
- 3 You can walk around Calgary for eight kilometres without going outside.

**2 a** Read the Focus box. How do you think we pronounce the words in bold?

### Understanding weak forms

When we speak, we don't pronounce every word clearly. They often include a sound called schwa /ə/. For example:

#### Articles

I work in **an** office.

People live in all kinds of unusual places around **the** world.

#### Prepositions

I walk **from** the train station **to** my office inside.

#### Verb be and do/does in questions

How **are** the streets?

How **do** people live?

#### and/but

It's warm **and** comfortable.

It's cold here in winter **but** it's also sunny.

**b** **4.12** Listen and check.

**3** **4.13** Listen to the sentences and select the words you hear.

- |         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| 1 of/an | 3 to/for    |
| 2 a/the | 4 the/those |

**4 a** **4.14** Listen to the next part of the radio programme and answer the questions.

- 1 What does the man do every day in winter?
- 2 Why is there no snow on some roads in Reykjavik?
- 3 How many hours of sunlight are there in Reykjavik in winter?
- 4 How many hours of night are there in Reykjavik in summer?
- 5 How long do people stay outside for in Yakutsk?
- 6 What clothes does the man wear?
- 7 What transport sometimes doesn't work in winter - trains or cars?

**b** **4.15** Listen and complete the sentences.

- 1 People don't need to pay \_\_\_\_\_ warm homes in winter.
- 2 I go outside every day and sit in \_\_\_\_\_ hot pool.
- 3 The hot water also helps with \_\_\_\_\_ roads.
- 4 It's not easy \_\_\_\_\_ drive around Iceland.
- 5 Natural hot water goes under some \_\_\_\_\_ our roads.
- 6 Some days it's  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  here \_\_\_\_\_ people live normal lives.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ don't stay outside for very long.
- 8 Clothes \_\_\_\_\_ important in cold places.
- 9 Shops \_\_\_\_\_ schools usually stay open in winter.
- 10 One big problem is our cars. \_\_\_\_\_ don't always start in winter.

**5** Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Would you like to live in a very cold place? Why/Why not?
- 2 What do you need to live in a cold place?

