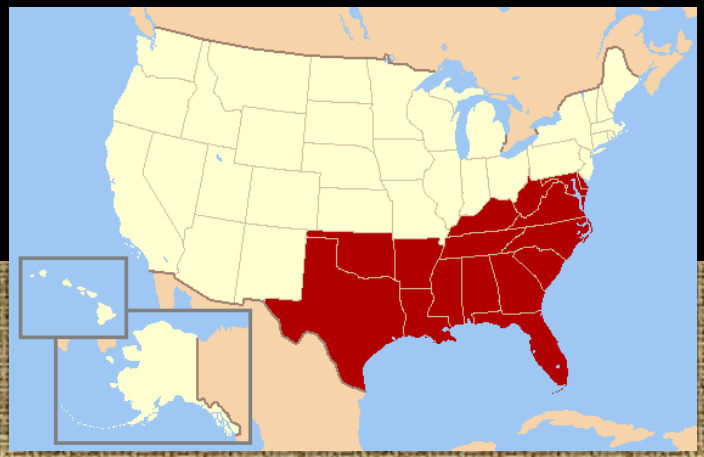
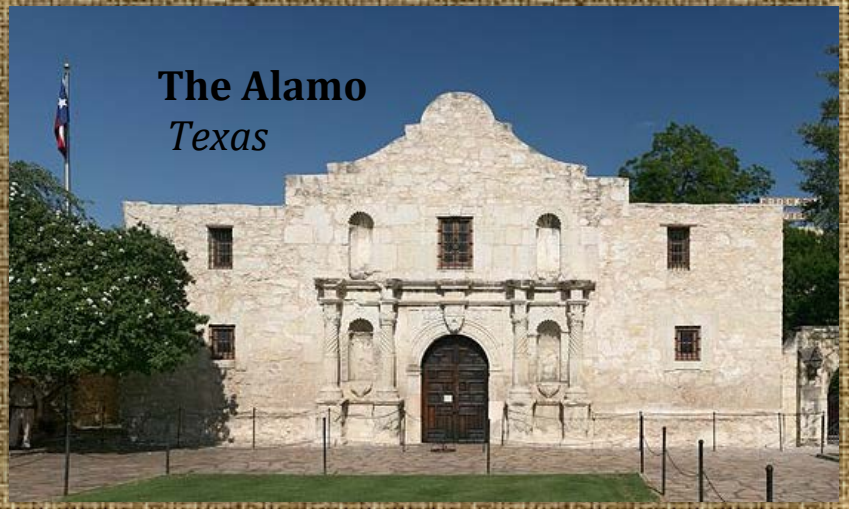
The South



Key West
Florida

Graceland
Tennessee

Jamestown
Virginia



The Alamo
Texas

The Outer Banks
North Carolina

Heera and her niece at a park in Texas

Brandon on a lake in North Carolina

Welcome Grammar Gallery Travelers!

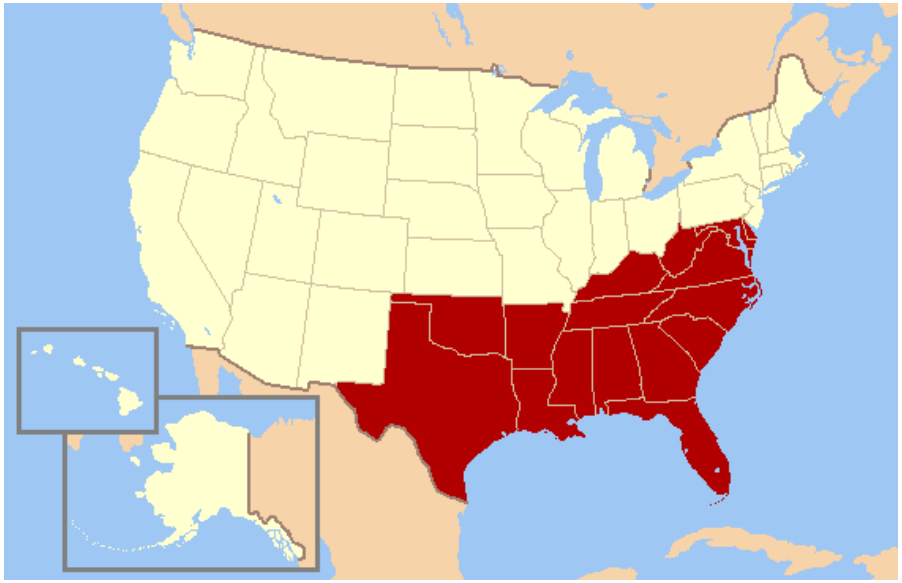
We're very happy that you decided to join the tour of the South. You'll have two guides this leg of the trip. Heera lives in Texas, and she'll be taking you to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas and Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee. Brandon is your other tour guide. He lives in Virginia, and he'll be taking you to the Florida Keys, the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and Jamestown, Virginia. In addition to learning about the Southern region of the United States, you'll also learn about the language spoken in the South and across the United States—ENGLISH! Pay close attention to the "Let's Look at the Language" boxes. When the trip is over, you'll have a chance to earn vacation points when you answer questions about what you read.

Have fun!

Which Southern states will we be visiting during this leg of the trip?

Texas, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia

What is the South?



Let's Look at the Language

The words shown in green are called superlative adjectives. We use superlative adjectives to compare a person/group, place, or thing with two or more other people/groups, places, or things. Many superlatives are formed by adding *–est* or *–st* to the end of the adjective: *fastest*. If the adjective has more than two syllables and does not end with *–y*, we put the word *most* before the adjective to make it a superlative: *most populous, most conservative*. Some superlatives are irregular and do not follow any rules. For example, *best* is the superlative form of the adjective *good*.

The South is a region of the United States. It includes the District of Columbia and 16 states—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The South is one of the fastest growing regions of the United States. According to the 2010 census, about 115 million people lived in the South, making it the most populous region. The South includes many different climate zones and thousands of miles of coastline. Southerners are generally the most conservative Americans in terms of religion and politics.

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Welcome to Texas!

It's often said, usually by Texans, that "everything's bigger in Texas." Texas is a large state in terms of area and population. In fact, it's the second largest in terms of both! *Texas* comes from the word *tejas*, which means "friends." Texans are friendly, and they're also fiercely proud of their state and its history. One of their most cherished landmarks is the Alamo. The Spanish built the Alamo as a mission in 1724. By 1824, it had become a military post. Texans fought the battle of the Alamo during their war for independence from Spain. A small band of Texans held out for 13 days against the much larger Mexican army. Ultimately, they were defeated. Still, the Alamo remains a symbol of a heroic fight for freedom against all odds.

Let's Look at the Language

A contraction is a shortened form of a word or words. An apostrophe (') usually marks the letters that are left out. The words shown in green are contractions. We use contractions often in speech and informal writing. Contractions make English speaking and writing sound more fluid and conversational. SPECIAL NOTE: Many people confuse the contraction *it's*, which stands for *it is*, with the possessive form *its*. The possessive form of *it* is *its*. Here's a sentence to help you remember this rule: *It's* [it is] *called the Alamo, and its* history is very interesting.

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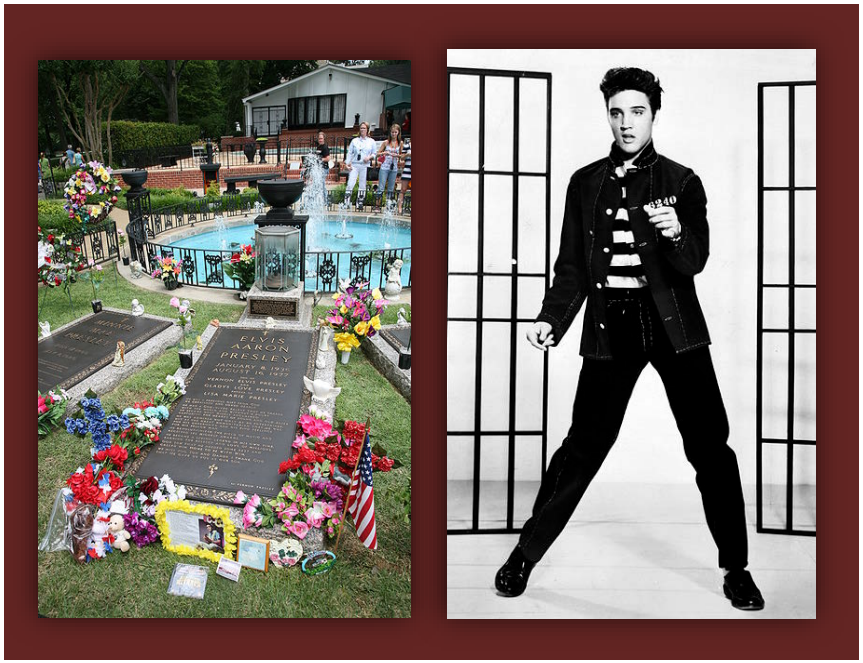
These pictures were created in the early 1900s. The picture on the left shows the inside of the Alamo. The picture on the right shows the Alamo under six flags.

This drawing made in 1854 shows one artist's idea of what the Alamo looked like in the 1830s.



Let's Look at the Language

We use the present perfect progressive tense to indicate that the action or condition is continuing from the past into the present time and possibly into the future. The words shown in orange are examples of the present perfect progressive tense. We form this tense we use *has been* or *have been* with a present participle (the *-ing* form of a verb).

For decades, people have been saying that Tennessee is the birthplace of rock and roll. While teenagers through the ages have swooned when they heard the latest singing sensation, no one has matched Elvis Presley's popularity. He had a look, a sound, and a presence that captured the imaginations of generations of Americans. Visitors have been traveling to Memphis for years to visit Graceland, Elvis Presley's home. Graceland has been serving as a museum since it opened to the public in 1982. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2006.

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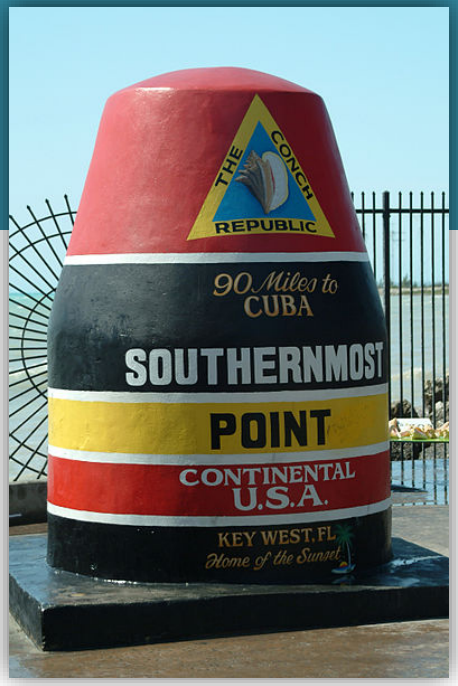
Welcome to Florida!

Credit: Tsaetre



Many people vacation in Florida, which is sometimes called "the sunshine state." Some go for the food and shopping in Miami and Fort Lauderdale; others go for the theme parks or the historical sites. We're going to the Florida Keys, which is a paradise for boating, fishing, and relaxing. Officially, the Florida Keys are an archipelago—a group of islands—that are made of very fragile coral. We certainly can go scuba diving or head to the Key Deer Refuge. However, I'm still thinking about relaxing on the beach!

Let's Look at the Language

An adverb describes or adds meaning to a verb, an adjective, another adverb, or a phrase or sentence. An adverb can indicate how, how much, when, where, or how frequently. Many adverbs are easy to recognize because they end with the letters *–ly*: *officially*, *certainly*. The words *sometimes* and *very* are also adverbs. In the sentence above, the adverb *still* refers to something that began in the past, but continues into the present.

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One of my favorite places to vacation is on the islands that make up the Outer Banks off the coast of North Carolina. I'm not alone. Many people say this is their favorite destination. Like us, they come for the area's beautiful beaches and its comfortable climate. While we're here, let's stop in the town of Kitty Hawk. This is where the Wright Brothers flew the first airplane, earning them a place in our nation's history. This famous event occurred on December 17, 1903.

Let's Look at the Language

The words shown in green in the text above are possessive pronouns. We use possessive pronouns to take the place of nouns (or noun phrases) to show ownership. Don't confuse the contraction *it's*, which stands for *it is*, with the possessive form *its*. The possessive form of *it* is *its*.

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Welcome to Virginia!

An advertising slogan says, "Virginia is for lovers." If you are a history lover, it's definitely the place for you! Even if you don't LOVE history, I think you'll enjoy our visit to the historic Jamestown settlement. Founded in 1607, Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America. If you walk around the site, you'll see how small the houses were and get a sense of how the people lived. You'll also see hundreds of tools, utensils, and weapons that the first settlers used. I don't know about you, but I love seeing history rather than just reading about it!

Let's Look at the Language

A conditional sentence is a sentence that consists of two parts—a condition (usually preceded by the word *if*) and a result (an expression of what will happen because of the condition). The sentences in purple in the text are conditional sentences.

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Attention Grammar Gallery Travelers!

There's still a lot more to do and explore. What's next?

TAKE A QUIZ. Click on the link below. You can test your knowledge AND impress your family.

http://www.grammargallery.org/southquiz1.html

VISIT OTHER SITES IN THE SOUTH. Check out links to other places in the South that you can "visit." There are also links to sites with more information about the places we explored together. Click here to get started.

WRITE A STORY ABOUT THE SOUTH. We are looking for student authors! Can you write a story about one of the places you visited in the South? It can be a made-up story, a story with facts, or a story that combines facts with made-up characters and events. Click here to submit your story.

Thank you so much for traveling with us to the South!

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Cover

Stefan Kokemüller (*Key West*)

Jan Kronsell (*Graceland*)

Nationalparks (*Jamestown*)

Daniel Schwen (*Alamo*)

Page 4

Daniel Schwen (*Alamo*)

Page 5

Courtesy of Special Collections, University of Houston Libraries (*top*)

Page 6

Jan Kronsell (*Graceland home*)

Daniel Schwen (*Elvis grave*)

Page 7

Stefan Kokemüller (*Southernmost point*)

Tsaetre (*aerial view of Key West*)

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