

# Comparing Places

Using adjectives to compare places.

## 1. Warm up

Look at the photographs and write four adjectives to describe each.



Lenvik, Norway

.....  
.....



New York, USA

.....  
.....

## 2. Reading

A. On your own, Student A read about Owen and Student B read about Abby then answer the questions.

### Owen (Student A)

I live in New York city. I like it, but it's sometimes difficult. It's more crowded in the city than in the country and people living here are usually younger. There is always something to do and there are lots of restaurants and bars, but it's noisier and the traffic is much worse. The city is much more polluted than the country as well. I would prefer to live outside of the city, in the country. It would be cheaper and more peaceful.

1. Where does Owen live?

.....

2. What does he like about living there?

.....

3. What doesn't he like about living there?

.....

4. Where would he prefer to live? Why?

.....

### Abby (Student B)

I live in the countryside in Norway. I love it here! It's much better than the city, I think. It's quieter here than in the city and it's much more peaceful. The air is cleaner too. I think people are older but happier here in the country, because it's a lot calmer. It's more boring in the country than in the city though, because there is less to do. I sometimes go to the city, but it's much more expensive, so I don't want to live there.

1. Where does Abby live?

.....

2. What does she like about living there?

.....

3. What doesn't she like about living there?

.....

4. Where does she prefer to live? Why?

.....

B. Ask your partner the questions about the person they read about.

### 3. Comparative Adjectives

A. Listen to your teacher read the adjectives and repeat after them.

- |                                   |                                    |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> happy    | <input type="checkbox"/> expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> clean    | <input type="checkbox"/> young |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boring   | <input type="checkbox"/> bad       | <input type="checkbox"/> peaceful | <input type="checkbox"/> noisy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> polluted | <input type="checkbox"/> quiet     | <input type="checkbox"/> calm     |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good     | <input type="checkbox"/> cheap     | <input type="checkbox"/> crowded  |                                |

B. Decide how many syllables each adjective has and write them in the table.

1 syllable adjectives	2 or more syllable adjectives	Adjectives ending in -y
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....











C. Fill the gaps in the table above with more adjectives.

D. Review the underlined comparative adjectives in Part 2A and complete the rules below.

- To make the comparative form of adjectives with 1 syllable:  
Add ..... to the end of the word.
- To make the comparative form of adjectives with 2 or more syllables:  
Add ..... or less before the word.
- To make the comparative form of adjectives ending in 'y':  
Remove ..... and add ..... to the end of the word.
- Some adjectives are irregular. The comparative form of good is **better**, bad is **worse**, and far is farther or further.

### 4. Practice

A. Complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adjective in brackets. Do you agree or disagree? Circle  or .

- Living in the country is ..... (dangerous) than living in the city.  
- Country life is ..... (relaxing) than city life.  
- Life in the country is ..... (healthy) than in the city.  
- The city is ..... (good) to live in than the country.  
- People in the country are usually ..... (young) than people in the city.  

- 6. The cost of living in the country is \_\_\_\_\_ (high) than in the city. 👍 👎
- 7. People are \_\_\_\_\_ (busy) in the country. 👍 👎
- 8. Buildings in the city are \_\_\_\_\_ (interesting) than in the country. 👍 👎
- 9. People in the city are \_\_\_\_\_ (friendly) than people in the country. 👍 👎
- 10. Transportation in the country is \_\_\_\_\_ (bad) than in the city. 👍 👎

**B. Compare your answers with a partner. Does your partner agree or disagree with you?**

**C. Finish the sentences with a comparative adjective and your own idea.**

e.g. Canada is larger than my country. \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Italy is \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. The weather in my country is \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Convenience stores are \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. My house is \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. My neighborhood is \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. The transportation in my city is \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Share your comparisons with a partner or the class.**

## 5. Discuss

**A. You are deciding on your next holiday. Write adjectives to describe the destinations. Think of both positive and negative adjectives.**



**Canadian Cross-Country Skiing Holiday**

.....  
 .....



**Cebu Beach Holiday**

.....  
 .....

**B. Compare the two holidays using your adjectives. Which holiday is better? Why?**

# Comparing Places



Level: Elementary: A2  
Pre-Intermediate: A2+

Updated: Nov 12, 2022

Language: Function: Comparing and contrasting. Describing people, places, or things. Talking about daily life.  
Forms: Adjectives. Present tense.

Teaching time: 90 minutes.

Overview: Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between two objects (larger, smaller, faster, higher). Students focus on how to form comparative adjectives and compare places to live, cities, and countries through sentence communicative activities and discussion.

## 1. WARM UP

In pairs, students look at the pictures and write 4 adjectives to describe each.

Elicit adjectives from students to write on the board and share with the class. Possible adjectives might include: crowded, big, noisy, polluted, interesting, cosmopolitan, green, fresh, beautiful, peaceful, calm, boring, quiet.

## 2. READING

- A. Individually, Student A reads about Owen and Student B reads about Abby. Review new vocabulary after reading and answer any questions that arise. Then, students answer the questions about the person they read about. Short answers are suitable for this comprehension activity. Answers may vary.

### Owen (Student A)

- Where does Owen live?  
In the city.
- What does he like about living there?  
There is always something to do. There are lots of bars and restaurants.
- What doesn't he like about living there?  
It's noisier and more polluted.
- Where would he prefer to live? Why?  
In the country, because it's cheaper and more peaceful.

### Abby (Student B)

- Where does Abby live?  
In the countryside, in Norway.
- What does she like about living there?  
It is quieter, more peaceful, and the air is fresher.
- What doesn't she like about living there?  
It can be more boring than the city.
- Where does she prefer to live? Why?  
In the country, because the city is more expensive.

- B. In pairs, students ask their partner the questions about the person they didn't read about.

## 3. COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

- A. Read the adjectives to the class and have them repeat after you. It is important to model stressed syllables in each word. Try clapping on each syllable as you read the words carefully.
- B. In pairs, students read the adjectives in Part 3A to each other and decide how many syllables each word has and write it in the table. You might choose to explain the importance of counting and dividing words into the right number of syllables. The rule

for counting syllables in English is actually simple; one vowel sound usually equals one syllable, e.g. 'been' has 1 syllable, 'dan|cing' has 2, and 'to|ma|to' has 3. Check answers with the class and answer any questions that arise.

### 1 syllable adjectives

cheap, clean, calm, young.

### 2 or more syllable adjectives

boring, polluted, expensive, quiet, peaceful, crowded.

### Adjectives ending in -Y

noisy, happy.

- C. Individually, students fill the spaces in the table in Part 3B with additional adjectives. Elicit additional adjectives from students. As an extended activity, individually, students scan the text in Part 2A and underline the adjectives they find. The adjectives in the text are in comparative form. Elicit the number of adjectives found. For fun, you could declare the student who underlined the most as the winner of the activity. There are 17 adjectives, most in the comparative form.
- D. Individually or in pairs, students complete the rules about forming comparative adjectives. Encourage students to review the text in Part 2A if they need help. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers with the class. Board examples and review if necessary.
- Add **-er** to the end of the word.
  - Add **more** or **less** before the word.
  - Remove **-y** and add **-ier** to the end of the word.
  - The adjectives 'good', 'bad', and 'far' are irregular in the comparative form.

## 4. PRACTICE

- A. Individually, students complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjective in brackets. Students should circle the thumbs up icon if they agree with the comparison or the thumbs down icon if they disagree. There is no need to check answers in this activity.
- Living in the country is **more dangerous** than living in the city.
  - Country life is **more relaxing** than city life.
  - Life in the country is **healthier** than in the city.
  - The city is **better** to live in than the country.
  - People in the country are usually **younger** than people in the city.
  - The cost of living in the country is **higher** than in the city.

7. People are **busier** in the country.
8. Buildings in the city are **more interesting** than in the country.
9. People in the city are **friendlier** than people in the country.
10. Transportation in the country is **worse** than in the city.

B. Model this exchange with a confident student:

**A** Living in the country is **more dangerous** than living in the city.

**B** I disagree. I think, living in the **city** is more dangerous than living in the **country**.

**A** Really?

**B** Yes. I think, living in the country is **safer** than living in the city.

In pairs, students take turns reading their completed sentences to check the comparative form and discuss any differences, then tell their partner if they agree or disagree. Challenge students to change the sentences they disagree with to something they agree with and continue the conversation if interesting.

- C. Individually, students complete the sentences with a comparative adjective and something to compare with. Encourage students to be creative. Monitor and check sentences are correct and answer any questions that arise.
- D. In pairs or as a class, students take turns sharing their comparisons. If a student's comparison is interesting, encourage follow-up questions and discussion.

## 5. DISCUSS

- A. Individually, students write down adjectives to describe each holiday destination. Adjectives should be both positive and negative. Alternatively, assign a holiday to Student A and Student B. The adjectives they write should be in favor of the holiday they are assigned and against the other.
- B. In pairs, students compare the holidays and discuss which is better and why. Encourage students to ask follow-up questions and think of ways to tell their partner why their holiday destination is better. Alternatively, students debate which holiday is better with the adjectives they wrote.

As an extended activity, students switch holiday destinations and discuss again.