Unit 7 · Making Comparisons

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **comparing**: two things → **-er / more … than**; one out of many → **the -est / the most**

Song: big, bigger, biggest

- two verses: *big, bigger, biggest*, then *small, smaller, smallest*
- each ends: *Let's compare the sizes!*

Reading I: From Pole to Pole

- **Topic:** the two coldest areas on Earth, studied by many scientists

	Antarctica	The Arctic
where	around the **South Pole**	around the **North Pole**
what	the **coldest** of the seven **continents**	a cold **region**, with warmer areas
land	ice and snow over most of it; the most **barren** place on Earth	in summer, most land without snow or ice
people	nobody lives there **permanently**; explorers and scientists visit	many people live there all year
light	no sunlight for **four months** at a time	in winter many parts get none; March–September a little every day
more	first seen in **1820**; whales, seals, penguins, fish on the **seacoast**	parts of Europe, Asia, North America

- **Why few animals in Antarctica:** extremely cold and barren; little food on land
- **The seven continents:** Asia (the biggest), Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia (the smallest)

Reading II: Comparison (a poem)

- **Poet:** Gordon Nightingale; three verses
- **Verse 1:** children differ in size and height, quick or slow, quiet or chatty
- **Verse 2:** people share and work in different ways, with different farm tools (**hoe**, **rake**); everyone gets things wrong sometimes
- **Verse 3:** places differ (hot **deserts**, cold mountains), and so do people: **cautious** or **bold**; being happy is good, and feeling sad is all right too
- **Message:** people are different, and that is fine
- rhymes in pairs of lines: *walk / talk, cold / bold, sad / had*

Key words

region: an area of a country or the world.

destination: the place someone is going to.

continent: one of the seven big land masses.

barren: land where almost nothing grows.

explorer: someone who travels to learn about a new place.

shelter: a safe place to stay.

permanently: for all time.

seacoast: the land beside the sea.

hoe / rake: a digging tool / a tool for gathering.

sow: put seeds in the ground.

desert: a dry land.

cautious / bold: careful / brave and confident.

Grammar I: comparing with adjectives

Form	For	Example
adjective	one thing	Antarctica is **cold**.
comparative	**two** things, + **than**	…is **colder than** the Arctic.
superlative	one out of **three or more**, + **the**	…is **the coldest** continent.

The adjective	Comparative	Superlative
one syllable	cold**er**	cold**est**
ends in -e	nice**r**	nice**st**
one vowel + one consonant	bi**gg**er, ho**tt**er, sli**mm**er	bi**gg**est
consonant + y	heav**ier**, bus**ier**	funn**iest**
long words	**more** interesting	**most** interesting

- **learn by heart:**
  - good, better, best
  - bad, worse, worst

- much / many, more, most
- little, less, least

- **never two at once:** *more taller*, *most heaviest* are wrong
- *clever*: **cleverer** or **more clever**
- Everest is **the highest** mountain (or higher than all the **other** mountains)

Grammar II: a, an and the

Use	When	Example
a / an	any one; the first time	*There is a river.*
the	mentioned before	*The river is deep.*
the	only one there is	*the Sun, the Moon, the sky, the Earth*
the	with a superlative	*the tallest boy*
the	both know which one	*Close the door. the man with a long beard*

- **a** or **an** by sound: *an elephant, an egg, a European girl*

Pronunciation: /s/ and /ʃ/

/s/ as in *sea* (lips flat)	/ʃ/ as in *ship* (lips round)
see, cities, certain, south, case	shelter, shore, cash, patient, sugar

- **c** before e or i says /s/; **sh**, the **s** in *sugar*, **ti** in *patient* say /ʃ/
- *so / show, sea / she* differ only in the first sound

Speaking: comparing

- **Jessica and Dolma:** her hair **shorter**, looks **better** than before; **the hottest** day of the year; Dolma **busier** than everyone
- **animals:**
  - *An elephant is bigger than a bear.*
  - *A lion is more dangerous than a monkey.*
  - *A giraffe is slimmer than an elephant.*
- **classroom:** *The board is wider than the door.*

Writing: comparing paragraphs

- **two seasons** (winter or summer?):
  - say which you like
  - compare days, weather, food, sky: *longer, hotter, clearer*
  - end with *the best* season
- **two friends:**
  - height, age, likes, behavior: *taller, older, quieter, funnier*
  - what each is better at
  - a superlative to finish

Listening: food

- so much **delicious** food: a different **dish** every day for life
- hard to say which is the **tastiest**; the speaker's **taste** keeps changing
- fast food is not **good** for us; be more **careful** about food in future

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ interestinger
✓ **more interesting**

✗ more good
✓ **better**

✗ the most fast, the most heaviest
✓ **the fastest, the heaviest**

✗ more taller
✓ **taller**

✗ She runs fast than me.
✓ She runs **faster** than me.

✗ Antartica
✓ **Antarctica**

✗ A Sun is a star.
✓ **The** Sun is a star.