Unit 7 · Making Comparisons

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 30

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 Who is the tallest?

HA · 4

ANSWER

Tests: working out an order from comparisons before choosing a superlative (*the …est* is one out of the whole group, so every clue counts, and one comparison never proves it).

a. **Pragya, Yangchen, Bishal, Sushant, Mijash.** (Pragya is taller than Yangchen, Yangchen taller than Bishal, Bishal taller than Sushant, Sushant taller than Mijash.)

b. *Pragya is **the tallest** of the five. Mijash is **the shortest** of the five.*

c. **No.** He is shorter than Bishal, but he is **taller than Mijash.** To be *the shortest*, he would have to be shorter than all four others.

d. Kriti stands **between Yangchen and Bishal:** Pragya, Yangchen, **Kriti**, Bishal, Sushant, Mijash. For example: *Kriti is **taller than** Bishal.* (or *shorter than Yangchen*) **No:** she is shorter than Yangchen, so Pragya is still **the tallest**, and she is taller than Bishal, so Mijash is still **the shortest.** A new person can only change *the tallest* if she is taller than the tallest one.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. The order Pragya, Yangchen, Bishal, Sushant, Mijash.

✓ b. *Pragya is the tallest* and *Mijash is the shortest* (half a mark each).

✓ c. No: Sushant is taller than Mijash, so he is not the shortest of all.

✓ d. Kriti between Yangchen and Bishal, with a true *than* sentence; no change: Pragya still the tallest, Mijash still the shortest (half a mark each).

2 New words, the same rules

ANSWER

Tests: the spelling table used on words the unit never showed, by reading what each word ends in, not by copying *big → bigger* onto every short word.

a.

Word	Comparative	Superlative	Why
thin	**thinner**	**thinnest**	one vowel (i) + one consonant (n): double
cool	**cooler**	**coolest**	two vowels (oo): don't double
wet	**wetter**	**wettest**	one vowel (e) + one consonant (t): double
dry	**drier**	**driest**	consonant (r) + y: y → i (*dryer* is also printed, mostly for the machine that dries clothes; take it)
wide	**wider**	**widest**	ends in -e: add -r, -st
loud	**louder**	**loudest**	two vowels (ou): don't double
warm	**warmer**	**warmest**	two consonants (rm): don't double
noisy	**noisier**	**noisiest**	consonant (s) + y: y → i
careful	**more careful**	**most careful**	a long word: more, most

b. The rule is not "short words double". It is: double the last letter when the word ends in **one vowel + one consonant**, like *b-i-g*. *Cool* ends in **two vowels** + a consonant (*o-o-l*), and *warm* ends in **two consonants** (*r-m*). So neither doubles: **coolest, warmer.**

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MARKING SCHEME A · 5

- ✓ a. *thinner, thinnest* and *wetter, wettest* (half a mark each).
- ✓ a. *cooler, coolest* and *louder, loudest* and *warmer, warmest* (all three).
- ✓ a. *drier, driest* and *noisier, noisiest* (half a mark each).
- ✓ a. *wider, widest* and *more careful, most careful* (half a mark each).
- ✓ b. Doubling is only for one vowel + one consonant; *cool* has two vowels and *warm* two consonants.

3 Fast or slow?

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: checking a comparison against data and against grammar at once; a superlative idea said with *than all* is nonsense when the thing is one of the group (the unit's Everest question); *fast* and *slow* only mean something next to what you compare with. (Speeds: the unit's own, rounded from Wikipedia's *Fastest animals*.)

a. **1** (70 is more than 65) and **4** (25 is the smallest number).

b.

- 2: the **English.** *Fast* is short, so: *A lion is **faster** than a brown bear.* (55 is more than 48, so the fact is right.)
- 3: the **facts.** 44 is less than 48: *Usain Bolt is **slower** than a brown bear.*
- 5: the **sense.** The cheetah is one of the runners, and it can't be faster than itself. *The cheetah is **the fastest** of the seven.* (or *faster than all the **other** runners*)
- 6: the **English:** no *the* before a word with *than*. *A greyhound is **faster than** a lion.* (65 is more than 55.)

c. ***Usain Bolt is faster than an Asian elephant.*** (44 against 25) ***Usain Bolt is slower than a brown bear.*** (or slower than any of the others) Both are true: he is fast next to an elephant, and slow next to a cheetah. A word like *fast* only tells us something when we say what we compare with.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Sentences 1 and 4.
- ✓ b. 2: *faster*, a mistake in the English.
- ✓ b. 3: *slower*, a mistake in the facts.
- ✓ b. 5: *the fastest of the seven* (or *than all the other runners*), a mistake in the sense.
- ✓ b. 6: *faster than*, a mistake in the English.
- ✓ c. A true *faster than* sentence (the elephant) and a true *slower than* sentence about Usain Bolt (half a mark each).

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4 Say it the other way round

ANSWER A · 5

Tests: turning a comparison round with the opposite word, including the words that change (*good, better* ↔ *bad, worse*; *much, more* ↔ *little, less*), and saying a superlative with *than* without the nonsense of *than all the continents*.

a. Our village **is quieter than** my uncle's. (*noisy* ↔ *quiet*; *my uncle's*, with no noun after it, stands for *my uncle's village*)
b. Your bag **is lighter than** mine. (*mine*, not *my*: no noun comes after it)
c. Rabin **is worse at drawing than** Nirjala. (not *badder* or *more bad*: *bad, worse, worst*)
d. There is **less water in your bottle than in** mine. (*much, more* turns round to *little, less*; not *more little*)
e. Asia **is bigger than all the other continents.** (or *bigger than any other continent*) Without *other*, it would say Asia is bigger than itself.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. *Our village is quieter than my uncle's.*
✓ b. *Your bag is lighter than mine.*
✓ c. *Rabin is worse at drawing than Nirjala.*
✓ d. *There is less water in your bottle than in mine.*
✓ e. *Asia is bigger than all the other continents* (with *other*, or *any other continent*).

5 The owl in the old tree

ANSWER A · 5

Tests: *a / an* chosen by the first **sound**, not the first letter; *the* for a thing already mentioned, for the only one, and with a superlative.

a. (1) **an** owl (2) **an** insect (3) **The** owl (4) **the** biggest (5) **the** moon (6) **an** hour (7) **the** owl (8) **a** university
b. In gap 1 we meet the owl for the **first time**, so it is any owl: **an**. After that the reader knows which owl, so it is **the** owl.
c. **No.** *An* goes before a vowel **sound**, not a vowel letter. *University* begins with a "yoo" sound, like *you*, so it takes **a** (like *a European girl*). *Hour* is the other way round: it begins with the letter *h*, but the *h* is silent, so the first sound is a vowel sound: **an hour**.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. (1) an, (2) an, (3) The, (4) the (all four).
✓ a. (5) the, (6) an, (7) the, (8) a (all four).
✓ b. The first time it is any owl (a / an); after that we know which owl (the).
✓ c. No: *an* goes by the first sound, and *university* starts with a "yoo" sound, so *a*.
✓ c. *Hour* starts with a silent *h*, a vowel sound, so *an*.

6 Two cold places

ANSWER

Tests: the forms of the unit chosen to fit true facts from the reading; a comparison must match what the text says, not only be good English.

A model:

*Antarctica and the Arctic are **both** very cold places. Antarctica is **colder than** the Arctic. It is **the coldest** of the seven continents. Antarctica is **more barren than** the Arctic: very few plants grow there. In summer, there is **less ice** on the Arctic's land than on Antarctica's.*

Other true comparisons: the Arctic has **warmer** areas; **more people** live in the Arctic (a true sentence, but *people* can be counted and *more* here goes with a noun, so it is neither the *more … than* with a describing word nor *more* with a thing you can't count). Not settled by the text: which gets **less sunlight**. Antarctica has no sun for four months at a time, and many parts of the Arctic have none in winter, so don't give the mark for that sentence as a true comparison. Not true by the text: "The Arctic is warmer than every other place" or "The Arctic is the coldest place" (Antarctica is colder).

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MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ An *-er … than* comparison and a *more … than* comparison, both correct (half a mark each).
- ✓ A superlative with *the*, correct.
- ✓ *More* or *less* with an uncountable noun, and *both*, used correctly (half a mark each).
- ✓ Every comparison true by the text (the Arctic never colder, Antarctica never with more people).
- ✓ Five or six sentences a younger child can follow, with the five parts underlined.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	**Total**
Marks	0	0	15	15	**30**

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