Unit 9 · Making Comparisons

STUDY NOTES

The unit in one line

- **compare** two things: **-er than** / **more … than**; pick **one out of three or more**: **the -est** / **the most**
- *big, bigger, the biggest*; *good, better, the best*

Song: comparing

- can you really compare the moon with the earth, or a death with a birth?
- the singer knows *big, bigger, biggest*, but can't decide which is best, the earth or the moon
- earning money is good, **learning** is the best; **discipline** (keeping to your rules and work) beats everything else
- school feels hard; it ends with a question: what is the easiest way to live?
- comparing words: *bigger, biggest, best, easiest*; rhymes: *earth / birth, biggest / best, best / rest, tall / all*

Reading I: Rara Lake

- a **description**: the facts first (where, how big, how deep, how high), then what makes it special, then how to get there
- **the facts:**
  - the **biggest** lake in Nepal; **Mugu District**, **Karnali Province**
  - water surface **10.8 km²**; **167 m** deep at its deepest
  - **altitude 2,990 m**; the jewel of **Rara National Park**
- **two amazing things:**
  - **colorful**: the water seems to change color in a day; the scene behind keeps changing (its **mysteries**)
  - **mirror effect**: crystal clear, still water; the hills and forests again, upside down, and your own face
- **for trekkers:** hiking on the hills round the lake; **flora and fauna**: more than **214** kinds of birds, **20** kinds of mammals, **500** kinds of flowers
- **endangered animals:** red panda, musk deer, Himalayan black bear, leopard, wild boar
- **less polluted:** free from dirt and **contamination**; less crowded; nature lovers find **solitude**
- **getting there:** fly **Nepalgunj → Talcha** airport (Mugu), or the **Karnali Highway** by bus or jeep

Reading II: two menus from Lamjung

- a **menu** = a table: find the item on the left, read across to its price; to compare, read across the **same row** of both

Item (Rs.)	Besisahar Chamena Griha	Deurali Restaurant
black tea	10	15
milk tea	20	25
cold drinks	45	45
French fries	85	80
momo (veg/chicken)	80/120	75/115
chow mein (veg/chicken)	80/120	85/125
Thakali khana (veg/chicken)	120/150	130/180

- cheaper at Deurali: **momo, French fries**; the same: **cold drinks**; veg chow mein differs by **Rs. 5**
- Thakali khana cheaper at Besisahar (chicken: Rs. 30 less)
- **chamena** = a snack, a light meal; **Chamena Griha** = a small eating house

Key words

altitude: height above the level of the sea.
mystery: something hard to understand or explain.
crystal clear: completely clear, like glass.
magnificent: grand and very beautiful.
destination: the place someone is traveling to.
flora and fauna: the plants and animals of a place.
endangered: in danger of dying out.
solitude: being alone, in peace and quiet.
contamination: making something dirty or harmful.
splendid: very fine and beautiful.

Grammar: comparatives and superlatives

Form	Use	Example
plain	one thing	*This book is **thin**.*
comparative + **than**: *thinner, more famous*	**two** things	*The second book is **thinner than** the first.*
superlative: *the thinnest, the most famous*	**one** out of three or more	*The third book is **the thinnest** of all.*

- *very* goes with the plain form: *very clean*, never *very cleaner*
- never two at once: not *more bigger*, *the most tallest*
- after a superlative: **in** + a place or group (*in Nepal, in our class*); **of** + a time or a number (*of the year, of all, of the three*)
- mountains are **high**; *tall* for people, trees, towers: *Everest is the highest mountain in the world.*

Extra bit: the spelling rules

The word	What to do
one syllable: add **-er**, **-est**	old → older → oldest
ends in **-e**: add **-r**, **-st**	large → larger → largest
one vowel + one consonant: **double** it	big → bigger → biggest; hot → hotter
consonant + **-y**: **y → i**	happy → happier → happiest
most two-syllable words, all of three or more: **more, most**	beautiful → more beautiful → most beautiful
irregular: learn them	good, better, best; bad, worse, worst; far, farther/further, farthest/furthest

- **syllable** = a beat of a word: *old* 1, *hap-py* 2, *beau-ti-ful* 3
- don't double after **two vowels** (*cooler, greater*), **two consonants** (*faster, colder*), or a final **w / y** (*lower, grayer*)
- two syllables ending in **-y** take **-ier** (*easier, noisier*); most others **more** (*more famous, more careful*); a few both (*cleverer / more clever*)
- **farther / further** for distance; only **further** = more, extra (*further information*)
- **adjective** = tells more about a noun or pronoun; goes **before a noun** (*a beautiful house*) or **after a linking verb** *be, look, feel, seem* (*The house is beautiful.*)

Speaking

- pictures with numbers: *thin (50 pages) → thinner (30) → thinnest (10)*; *fast 50 → faster 70 → fastest 100 km/h*; *heavy 5 → heavier 15 → heaviest 30 kg*
- **two choices** → comparative (*Which is worse: …or…?*); **one out of many** → *the* + superlative (*the scariest movie you have watched*)

Listening: ordering momo

- **Rahul** phones a restaurant, **Paanchkhal**; **Rama** answers
- he lives at **Shanti Chowk**, about **10 minutes** on foot
- orders **three plates** of veg momo, a plate of chicken chow mein, two plates of French fries
- delivery takes **30 minutes**
- bill: food **Rs. 510** + delivery **Rs. 50** = **Rs. 560**

Writing

- **a picture:** compare its things with the box's adjectives (*The pine tree is taller than the mango tree.*)
- **our classroom:** how it differs from others; comparatives (*bigger, brighter, quieter than…*)
- **a menu:** the place's name, items in **groups** (drinks, snacks, meals), **prices** in one column, opening hours
- **project, a leaflet of Rara:** a title and picture on the front; inside: where it is, what you can see, what you can do, how to get there; on the back: tips for visitors; short lines, a heading for each part

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Pokhara is more cooler than Birgunj.
✓ Pokhara is **cooler** than Birgunj.

✗ Rara is the bigger lake in Nepal.
✓ Rara is **the biggest** lake in Nepal.

✗ My brother is taller from me.
✓ My brother is taller **than** me.

✗ My notebook is very cleaner.
✓ My notebook is **very clean**.

✗ heavyer, biger, largeest
✓ **heavier, bigger, largest**

✗ the tallest mountain of the world
✓ **the highest** mountain **in** the world