Unit 9 · Making Comparisons

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 23

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

1 Two things, or one out of many?

HA · 6

ANSWER

Tests: the number of things compared decides the form, not the words around the gap (*of the two* takes the comparative; one out of many takes *the* + the superlative); *very* with the plain form; a comparative without *than* for a change; *more* with a two-syllable word not ending in *-y*; *in* for a group or place, *of* for a time.

a.

1. **faster** (*the faster of the two*)
2. **better** (two places)
3. **the funniest** (one out of all the cousins; *funny* → *funnier* → *funniest*)
4. **cold** (*very* goes with the plain form, never *very colder*)
5. **stronger** (he is changing: stronger than he was)
6. **more crowded** (two syllables, *crowd-ed*, not ending in *-y*: *more*)
7. the happiest day **of** my life (a time) · the best swimmer **in** our village (a place)

b. Only **two** buses are compared, and two things take the comparative, even with *the* in front: *the faster of the two*. *The fastest* is for one out of three or more. (The tempting answer is *fastest*, because *the* usually comes before *-est*. People do say *the fastest of the two* in everyday talk, but careful English, and this unit, use the comparative for two.)

c. In 3, Sana is picked out as the top of a **whole group** (all my cousins, more than two), so it is a superlative, and it needs *the*. In 5, the brother is compared with **himself as he was before**: a comparative can show a change, so it doesn't need *than* (*He is getting stronger*, stronger than he was).

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. 1 and 2: *faster*, *better*.
- ✓ a. 3 and 4: *the funniest* (with *the*), *cold*.
- ✓ a. 5 and 6: *stronger*, *more crowded*.
- ✓ a. 7: *of* my life, *in* our village.
- ✓ b. Two buses: the comparative, even after *the*; *the -est* is for three or more.
- ✓ c. 3: one out of a group, so *the funniest*; 5: a change, compared with before, so no *than* is needed.

2 Cheaper, item by item or for the whole order?

ANSWER

Tests: comparing whole orders, not single prices: a café can be cheaper for most items and dearer for an order that has many of the one item it charges more for; a new cost can turn the answer round; *Of the two …* with the comparative.

a. **No.** Chicken momo is Rs. 30 cheaper at Café Himal. For example: *Most things are **cheaper** at Café Mitho, **but** chicken momo is **cheaper** at Café Himal.*

b. Café Mitho: 2 × 20 + 100 + 90 + 3 × 170 = 40 + 100 + 90 + 510 = **Rs. 740.** Café Himal: 2 × 25 + 110 + 95 + 3 × 140 = 50 + 110 + 95 + 420 = **Rs. 675.** So **Café Himal** is cheaper for this order, by **Rs. 65.**

c. Café Mitho saves only small amounts (Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 5 on one cup or plate), but the family orders **three** plates of chicken momo, and each costs Rs. 30 more at Café Mitho: Rs. 90 in all. That is more than the Rs. 25 Café Mitho saves on the rest. (The tempting answer is Café Mitho, because it is cheaper for more items.)

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d. Café Himal now costs 675 + 80 = Rs. 755, against Rs. 740: ***Of the two cafés, Café Mitho is cheaper for an order to our home*** (by Rs. 15). (*Cheaper* or *the cheaper* are both right; not *the cheapest*: there are only two.) HA · 6

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. No (chicken momo is cheaper at Café Himal), with a true sentence using *cheaper* and *but*.
- ✓ b. Café Mitho Rs. 740, Café Himal Rs. 675.
- ✓ b. Café Himal is cheaper, by Rs. 65.
- ✓ c. Three plates of chicken momo cost Rs. 90 more at Café Mitho, more than its small savings on the rest.
- ✓ d. Café Himal Rs. 755 now, so Café Mitho is cheaper.
- ✓ d. The sentence uses *Of the two cafés … cheaper* or *… the cheaper* (the comparative, not *the cheapest*).

3 A lake riddle

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: checking comparisons against numbers on two measures at once (a riddle that fits two answers, and a clue the numbers settle clearly), *second* + superlative, *about twice as big*, *high* for a lake, and the difference between a comparison you can measure, one the table doesn't measure and an opinion. (Numbers from the unit's lake chart: Rara's from the textbook, the others from English Wikipedia, rounded.)

a. **Tilicho and Phoksundo.** Three lakes are higher than Phewa (Rara, Tilicho, Phoksundo), and of those, only Tilicho (4.8) and Phoksundo (4.9) are smaller than Rara (10.8). So the riddle has **two** answers. (The tempting answer stops at the first lake found.)

b. For Tilicho: *I am **higher than** Phoksundo* (4,919 m against 3,600 m). For Phoksundo: *I am **lower than** Tilicho* (3,600 m against 4,919 m). Any clue that leaves only the one lake, on numbers that are far apart, gets the mark (*higher than Rara* would not do for Phoksundo: Tilicho is higher than Rara too; *smaller than Phoksundo* for Tilicho is the same poor size clue as *bigger than Tilicho*). "Bigger than Tilicho" is a poor clue because 4.9 and 4.8 km^2 are **almost the same**, and the table says surveys differ a little: another survey could put them the other way round. A good clue uses numbers that are far apart, like the heights.

c. **Phewa** (742 m is lower than Rara's 2,990 m, and 5.7 km^2 is bigger than Begnas's 3.3 km^2). No other lake fits both.

d. **Second highest: Phoksundo** (after Tilicho). **Second biggest: Phewa** (after Rara).

e. Sentence 1: the table can check it, and it is **true**: 10.8 is a little less than 2 × 5.7 = 11.4, so *about twice as big* is right. Sentence 2: the table **can't** check it: it gives no depths. Sentence 3: the table **can't** check it: *more beautiful* is an **opinion**; no number measures beauty. Sentence 4: the table can check it, and Tilicho **is** the highest, but the word is wrong: a lake is **high** (far above the sea), not *tall*. *Tilicho is the highest lake of the five.*

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Tilicho and Phoksundo, both.
- ✓ b. A clue that leaves only Tilicho, and one that leaves only Phoksundo, each on numbers far apart (not the sizes 4.8 and 4.9).
- ✓ b. 4.8 and 4.9 are too close, and surveys differ, so a size clue can't settle it.
- ✓ c. Phewa.
- ✓ d. Phoksundo the second highest, Phewa the second biggest.
- ✓ e. 1 true, 2 and 3 can't be checked (no depths; an opinion), 4 *highest*, not *tallest*.

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4 Two words, two spelling rules

ANSWER A · 5

Tests: the spelling rules used as reasons on words the unit never gives: doubling needs one vowel + one consonant, and never a final *w* or *y*; *y* → *i* only after a consonant; two-syllable words in *-y* take *-ier*, others *more*; a final *e* takes only *-r*.

a. **sadder, slower.** *Sad* ends in one vowel + one consonant (*a-d*), so the *d* doubles. *Slow* ends in **w**, which never doubles.

b. **grayer, tinier.** In *tiny* the *y* comes after a consonant (*n*), so *y* → *i*. In *gray* the *y* comes after a vowel (*a*), so it stays: *grayer*. (The tempting answer is *grayier*.)

c. **lazier, more famous.** Both have two syllables, but *lazy* ends in *-y* (→ *-ier*), and *famous* doesn't, so it takes *more*.

d. **fitter, finer.** *Fit* ends in one vowel + one consonant: double the *t*. *Fine* ends in *e*: add only *-r*.

e. For example: ***hot → hotter*** and ***neat → neater***: *hot* ends in one vowel + *t*, so the *t* doubles; *neat* has two vowels before the *t*, so it doesn't. Other pairs: *red / loud* (*redder*, *louder*), *wet / short* (*wetter*, *shorter*), *thin / clean* (*thinner*, *cleaner*). Any pair that fits gets the mark if the reason is right.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. *sadder, slower*: one vowel + one consonant doubles; *w* never does.
✓ b. *grayer, tinier*: *y* → *i* only after a consonant.
✓ c. *lazier, more famous*: two syllables in *-y* take *-ier*; others *more*.
✓ d. *fitter, finer*: one vowel + one consonant doubles; a final *e* adds only *-r*.
✓ e. A correct pair of one-syllable words ending in the same consonant, with the reason.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	Total
Marks	0	0	5	18	23

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