

Grammar

Comparisons

- My old mobile phone was **smaller than** this one.
- I think ICT is **the most interesting** school subject.
- Uploading a video on the web isn't as **difficult as** I thought.
- It's **a lot faster** to send an email than a letter.
- **The more** I use the computer, **the worse** my headache gets.
- I'm starting to think that exams are getting **harder and harder**.

Complete with the correct form of the words in brackets.

Young people have many ways to communicate with each other. Nowadays, it's much (1) _____ (easy) to chat and keep in touch with friends than in the past. Of course, young people hardly ever send letters. And even emails aren't as (2) _____ (popular) as the message services provided by social networking sites. However, the (3) _____ (common) way for young people to communicate is by text messaging which is becoming (4) _____ and _____ (cheap). Over the last few years, smartphones have become (5) _____ (popular) because people can use them to instantly send videos and pictures to their friends or even share them on social media. All this communication has its disadvantages, though. The (6) _____ (much) young people use these ways to communicate with their friends, the (7) _____ (little) time they spend seeing them face-to-face.

B. Complete the text with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives or adverbs in brackets.

ESPERANTO 'Saluton!*

(* Saluton = hello in Esperanto)



In the late 19th century, a man named L.L. Zamenhof created a completely new language that he hoped would be the (1) _____ (exciting) development in the history of languages. He called this language 'Esperanto' and it was designed to be (2) _____ (easy) to learn than any other language, with the basic rules taking only a few days to understand. He hoped it would become the (3) _____ (popular) second language in the world. But to his disappointment, it did not become as (4) _____ (popular) as he expected. Zamenhof believed that the world would become a (5) _____ (good) and (6) _____ (peaceful) place with a single, common language. He thought everyone would feel (7) _____ (close) to each other if they were no longer divided by different languages.

No one knows exactly how many people speak Esperanto fluently, but there may be between 10,000 to (8) _____ (many) than 1.5 million people. Traditional languages such as English may be (9) _____ (hard) to learn but they continue to be the (10) _____ (common) second languages for students all over the world.

C. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words including the word given.

1. If you keep practising, it'll become easy for you.

more

The _____
it'll become for you.

2. Sandra receives more emails than Kate.

as

Kate doesn't receive _____
Sandra.

3. Your younger sister is becoming quite tall.

and

Your younger sister is getting _____
_____.

4. If you run faster, you'll get to school quicker.

the

The faster _____
you'll get to school.

5. Ben is not as interested in reading as his brother.

less

Ben is _____
his brother.

6. Lisa's hair is a lot longer than Helen's.

much

Lisa's hair _____
than Helen's.

D. Complete the dialogues with the phrases a-g. There are two extra phrases which you do not need to use.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a. turned it on | e. give them a call |
| b. shut it down now | f. call me back |
| c. drop him a line | g. kept in touch with |
| d. have a word with | |

1. **Matthew** My computer isn't working. Can you help me, Amir?

Amir Have you (1) _____? I can't see any lights on anywhere.

Matthew I'm not that silly! The problem is that I can't hear anything.

Amir Oh, that's never happened to me before. Look, here's the number for technical support. Why don't you (2) _____?

Matthew I did and I am waiting for them to (3) _____.

2. **Sam** Hi, Jess. Did you get my email about the get-together?

Jess Yeah, thanks. I need to (4) _____ my parents about it first, but I think I'll come.

Sam That's great news! Tell your cousin about it too.

Jess He's at university now so I'll send him an email.

Sam OK great. Can you give me his address? I'll (5) _____ to give him directions to my house.

Jess Sure, no problem.