0.7 UK vs USA

Grammar: Comparative structures
Vocabulary: Adjectives and adverbs

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 **Find pairs of words that describe the same thing in American and British English. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

~~biscuit~~ closet ~~cookie~~ elevator
garbage holiday lift pavement
rubbish sidewalk subway
underground vacation wardrobe

biscuit (UK) – cookie (US)

2 CD·1.7 MP3·7 **In pairs, read the blog entry and discuss which option you think is correct. Then listen to Jess talking to a friend and check your ideas with hers.**



An American in London

I've been chatting to a British friend, comparing life in the USA with life here in the UK. Here are some of my conclusions.

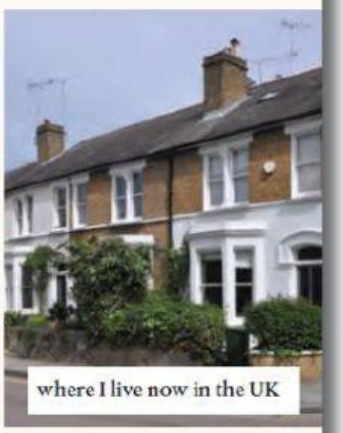
In the UK ...

- the cost of living is a lot [1]*higher / lower* than
- salaries are [2]*quite a bit / a little* lower than
- food portions are a lot [3]*smaller / bigger* than
- most people live in [4]*slightly / much* smaller houses than
- housework is a lot [5]*harder / easier* because there are [6]*more / fewer* appliances than
- health care [7]*is more expensive than / isn't as expensive as*
- employees get [8]*a lot / slightly* more time off than
- people visit museums far [9]*more / less* frequently than

... in the USA.



where I lived in the USA



where I live now in the UK

3 **Read REMEMBER THIS. Then complete the cartoon caption with *as, less, much, quite, than* or *the*.**

REMEMBER THIS

- Adjective forms = add ***-er/the -est*** to short adjectives, ***more/the most*** to long adjectives; irregular adjectives: ***good, bad, far***
- Adverb forms = add ***more/the most*** or ***less/the least*** to adverbs; exceptions include ***early/earlier, fast/faster, well/better***
- Modifying comparisons = ***far/much/a lot/quite a bit/a bit/a little/slightly*** + comparative adjective/adverb
- Other structures = ***as ... as, not as/so ... as, the ... the***



A: Wow that coffee cup is as big [1]_____ my head! Is everything [2]_____ larger in the USA than in the UK?
B: Yes, except one thing: bathtubs are [3]_____ a bit smaller.
A: Why? There's far more space in American houses [4]_____ British ones.
B: Americans take baths [5]_____ regularly than British people. They prefer showers. But their shower rooms are [6]_____ biggest in the world!

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4 **Form the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives and adverbs in the box.**

badly-paid (adj) extreme (adj) fit (adj) late (adv)
healthy (adj) soon (adv) well-dressed (adj)

badly-paid/worse-paid/the worst-paid

5 **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the words in capitals.**

1 British comedies aren't as funny as American comedies. **THAN**
American comedies are _____ British ones.
2 Andy Roddick's serve is faster than Andy Murray's. **AS**
Andy Murray's serve _____ Andy Roddick's.
3 One World Trade Center in New York is much taller than the Shard in London. **LESS**
The Shard in London is _____ the One World Trade Center in New York.
4 If you live in Boston, you grow to love it more each day. **MORE**
The longer you live in Boston, _____ you love it.
5 English rock music is better than any other. **BEST**
English rock music is _____ world.

6 **Use the prompts and the words in brackets to write comparative sentences. Which facts did you already know?**

1 football players / well-paid / American Football players (much)
2 Big Ben / high / Statue of Liberty (a bit)
3 US life expectancy / short / UK life expectancy (a little)
4 US military expenditure / great / UK military expenditure (far)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

0.8 USA vs UK

Grammar: The Passive • *have something done*
Vocabulary: Politics • Society

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 **Complete the table. Put words and phrases with similar meanings side by side under *The USA* or *The UK*.**

~~Congress~~ Conservatives 50 States Pound
Constitutional Monarchy 98 Counties Dollar
Democrats ~~Houses of Parliament~~ Labour
President Prime Minister Republic Republicans

The USA	The UK	Your country
Congress	Houses of Parliament	

2 **Add equivalent words to describe the institutions in your country. Then, in pairs, discuss similarities and differences between all three countries.**

3 **Read the quiz and choose the correct options.**



1. This country *hasn't been / hasn't* invaded since 1066, when King Harold *was / has* defeated by William the Conqueror.
2. Until 1913 it was legal to *have / be* children sent to other parts of this country by parcel post.
3. One in eight workers in this country *has had / has been* employed by McDonald's at one time or another.
4. Eighty percent of everything on sale in this country *is / has* bought by women.
5. When Abraham Lincoln became President of this country in 1861, slaves *were still being / had still* imported from Africa. During his presidency, Lincoln *had / was* slavery abolished.
6. In 1918 women over thirty *were / have* allowed to vote in elections in this country. Women over twenty-one *weren't / haven't* allowed to vote until 1928.
7. Eight billion chickens *are / have* consumed in this country each year.
8. This country's king, Henry VIII, *had been / had had* married six times and *had been / had* two of his wives executed by the time he died in 1547.

4 CD•1.8 MP3•8 **Replace *this country* with *the USA* or *the UK* in Exercise 3. Then listen and check. Which facts did you find surprising?**

5 **Read REMEMBER THIS. Then complete the cartoon caption with the correct auxiliary verbs.**

REMEMBER THIS

- **The Passive** = it isn't important or you don't know who performed an action
- **Passive sentence + *by* + agent** = a way to mention who (or what) performed an action
- ***have something done*** = you don't perform an action yourself (somebody does it for you)



American: I love your royal family, especially William and Kate. Their wedding in 2011 [1]_____ shown by the biggest American TV stations. I [2]_____ my hair done like Kate's for the occasion! Do you think George [3]_____ be crowned King one day?
Brit: Um, maybe, but he's just a child now, so he's only interested in [4]_____ his meals served and the TV tuned into his favourite cartoons.

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6 **Read some more trivia facts about the USA and the UK. Rewrite the sentences in the passive, using by + agent only if it is necessary.**

1. Most people think that Christopher Columbus discovered America.
   Most people think that America was discovered by Christopher Columbus.
2. Every year in the USA judges sentence around 100 criminals to death.
3. In 1811 in Britain, parents named nearly a quarter of all girls Mary.
4. People in the UK drink more tea than in any other country.
5. French people built the Statue of Liberty in France.

7 **Use the prompts to write questions with *have something done*. Then, in pairs, ask and answer the questions.**

1. have you ever / repair / a bicycle?
2. when did you last / test / your eyes?
3. will you ever / colour / your hair?
4. are you going to / redecorate / your bedroom?
5. have you / pierce / your ears?
6. when did you last / take / a passport photo?

LIVEWORKSHEETS