

## Photo comparison and discussion

I can describe, compare and contrast photos.



1 **SPEAKING** Which items from below can you see in the photos?

In the house bedside table bookcase bunk bed curtains cushion double bed duvet fridge hook kitchen cupboard lamp microwave pillow shelf sofa

In photo B there's a lamp on the bedside table.

» **Vocabulary Builder** In the house: page 123

## Speaking Strategy 1

When comparing and contrasting photos, use a variety of comparative and superlative forms, including negative structures like *less comfortable than* and *not as big as*.

2 Read Speaking Strategy 1. Then complete the sentences that contrast photos A and B. Use comparative structures.

- 1 The room in photo A is \_\_\_\_\_ tidy \_\_\_\_\_ the room in photo B.
- 2 The bed in photo B looks \_\_\_\_\_ comfortable.
- 3 The room in photo A isn't \_\_\_\_\_ bright \_\_\_\_\_ the room in photo B.
- 4 The room in photo B is one of \_\_\_\_\_ nicest rooms I've \_\_\_\_\_ seen.

Compare and contrast the photos of student accommodation and say which you would prefer to live in.

3 **2.12** Read the task above. Then listen to a student doing the task. Which room does she prefer? Do you agree? Why? / Why not?

4 **2.12** Choose the best words to complete the sentences. Then listen again and check your answers.

- 1 Photo A is of a room in a hostel, I think, **unless** / **whereas** the second shows a small flat.
- 2 There are bunk beds in the room in the hostel, **but** / **when** the other room has got a double bed.
- 3 **While** / **When** photo A shows a rather untidy room, the room in photo B is very tidy.
- 4 The room in the hostel looks quite cosy. **However**, / **Whereas** the furniture looks a bit old and worn out.
- 5 I like the idea of sharing with other students, **although** / **despite** the lack of privacy.

In his / her gap year, a friend is going to spend three months studying English at a British university. He / She can stay with a host family or in university accommodation with other foreign students. Your friend asks you for advice on the best option. Discuss these points:

- convenience and cost
- social life
- opportunities to practise your English
- getting to know Britain and British culture

5 Read the task above. For each of the four points, think of one advantage of staying with a host family and one advantage of staying in university accommodation.

From the point of view of location and convenience, the university accommodation would be better because ...

From the point of view of cost, a host family would be better because ...

6 **2.13** Listen to two students doing the task. Did they mention any of your ideas from exercise 5? Do you agree with their opinions? Why? / Why not?

## Speaking Strategy 2

When giving your opinion, you will have to think as you speak. Learn phrases that create time for you to formulate opinions. They will also make you sound more fluent.

7 **KEY PHRASES** Read Speaking Strategy 2. Then complete the phrases with the words below.

considered else point see suppose think thinking

## Phrases for gaining time

Let me<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
Actually, now I come to<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about it, ...  
<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about it, ...  
All things<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, ...  
I<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the thing is, ...  
What<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_? Well, ...  
That's a good<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

8 **2.13** Listen again to both answers. Which phrases from exercise 7 did the students use?

In your gap year, you are going to spend three months in the UK studying English. You are looking for a flat to rent. Ask your friend for advice. Discuss these points:

- location
- cost
- meals
- sharing with other students

9 Work in pairs. Read the task above and make notes for each of the four points that you have to cover.

10 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Do the task in exercise 9.

11 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Turn to page 144 and do the photo comparison task.