

# 8 The world around me

Work with a partner and answer the questions. Use the words in the box to help you.

angry • bored • confused • disappointed • excited • frightened • happy  
interested • relaxed • sad • stressed • surprised • tired • worried

- 1 How do the people in the photos feel?
- 2 What reason(s) could they have for feeling this way?



Complete the sentences with these words.

cheerful • hard-working • intelligent • kind • lazy • quiet  
responsible • serious

- 1 A ..... person helps other people and is good to them.
- 2 An ..... person understands and learns things quickly.
- 3 A ..... person doesn't like working or making an effort.
- 4 A ..... person is usually happy and friendly.
- 5 A ..... person is reliable and does all the things that they should do.
- 6 A ..... person doesn't talk much.
- 7 A ..... person thinks carefully about things and does not laugh much.
- 8 A ..... person puts a lot of effort into their work.

Write three sentences about yourself using adjectives in 4.

- 1 I think I'm a cheerful person because I'm usually happy.
- 2 I can be lazy sometimes because I like sleeping and relaxing.
- 3 I'm not quiet because I talk a lot.

## HAPPY TEENAGERS?



In 2013, UNICEF wanted to find out if children and teenagers in rich countries are happy. They discovered that youngsters in the Netherlands are top for general well-being. Then come four Nordic countries. Out of 29 countries, the UK was only 16<sup>th</sup> and the US 26<sup>th</sup>.



**Jake23**

Shared publicly - 21 Oct 2014



I don't care if Dutch children are happier than British kids or if American teenagers are sadder than Swedish teenagers. What about all the young people who live in poorer countries? That's what we should be worried about. In richer countries, kids feel bad if their mobile phone is older than their friend's. It's easy to forget that a lot of kids in the world haven't got any modern gadgets. In fact, maybe they haven't got a school to go to, or clean water to drink. I think it's more important to think about those kids than the lucky ones who have everything.



**June8**

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We usually think that the US and the UK are super-rich countries. But there are a lot of very poor families there as well as rich ones. And education isn't always better there. The results in tests were worse in the US and in the UK than a lot of other countries like Switzerland and Poland. And some kids are more unhealthy in the US than in other poorer countries. Reports like this are useful because they show that things aren't always what they seem.



**Marion11**

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I'm 15 and I'm from the Netherlands. It's true that we're generally very happy here. Family is really important. I find it easy to speak to my parents. In my opinion, that's more important than money if you want to be happy. My mum and dad are quite relaxed about what I do. And at school we don't feel particularly stressed. Maybe one problem is that in the UK and the US, television and newspapers make kids feel disappointed because their lives aren't perfect. But here we're more positive about life.



Luke52

Shared publicly - 01 Oct 2014



Being a British teenager, I find this quite strange. I think that young people here are healthier now than in the past. We learn in school about the importance of exercise, eating well, the dangers of smoking and all of that. And at school I know my teachers care and want to help me. My relationship with my parents is healthy too. Maybe things could be better here in the UK, but they could also be a lot worse. I think the report is fine, but then newspapers make the results sound so negative. The reality is different.

**Answer the following questions and give reasons for your answers.**

- 1 How happy do you think teenagers are in your country? Give a number from 1 (very sad) to 5 (very happy).
- 2 Which country or countries do you think are the best for teenagers? Why?

**Who says what ?**

- 1 Not everything is bad in their country.
- 2 There are important, basic problems in the UK and the US.
- 3 Journalists are perhaps responsible for some teenagers being sad or unhappy.
- 4 They aren't interested in the report.
- 5 The report makes it clear that we have the wrong idea about some countries.
- 6 They agree with the conclusions of the report because of their personal experience.
- 7 Some teenagers worry about things that have no real importance.
- 8 Other people are making things sound worse than they are.

### **CRITICAL THINKING**

**Think! Then compare ideas with your class.**

- Write one or two sentences to summarise what each person thinks about the question of teenage happiness in different countries. Are they giving facts or opinions?

### **SPEAKING What about you?**

Which statements in the text do you agree with? Why?



## Comparative adjectives

Read the sentences and complete the table with the words in blue.

- Dutch children are **happier** than British kids.
- Things could be **better** but they could also be **worse**.
- My mobile phone is **older** than yours.
- American teenagers are **sadder** than Swedish teenagers.
- Family is **more important** than money.

Adjective	Comparative adjective	Rule
old	(a) .....	1 One-syllable adjectives – add -er.
sad	(b) .....	2 One-syllable adjectives ending in one vowel and one consonant – double the consonant and add -er.
happy	(c) .....	3 One- or two-syllable adjectives ending in -y – omit -y and add -ier.
important	(d) .....	4 Adjectives with two syllables or more – put <i>more</i> before the adjective.
good bad far	(e) ..... (f) ..... farther, further	5 irregular

Write the comparative form of the following:

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 easy <b>easier</b> | 5 hard-working |
| 2 beautiful          | 6 lazy         |
| 3 high               | 7 friendly     |
| 4 kind               | 8 thin         |

Make the two sentences into one using the comparative form of the adjective.



- 1 Charlotte is angry. Sophie is very angry.  
*Sophie is angrier than Charlotte.*
- 2 Jake is worried. Luke is very worried.
- 3 Amy is happy. Holly is very happy.
- 4 Max is confused. Ben is very confused.
- 5 Jack is relaxed. Harry is very relaxed.
- 6 Emma is intelligent. Isabelle is very intelligent.
- 7 Adam is bad at French. Charlie is very bad at French.

**Do you know these facts? Choose the correct adjective and use its comparative form to complete the sentence.**

- 1 Turkey is ..... (big/small) than Mexico.
- 2 The Burj Khalifa in Dubai is ..... (tall/short) than the Empire State Building.
- 3 In July, it is ..... (hot/cold) in Kiev than in London.
- 4 It's ..... (cheap/expensive) to live in Trondheim, Norway than to live in London, UK.
- 5 The Great Pyramid of Giza is ..... (modern/old) than the pyramid at Chichén Itzá.
- 6 Mexico City is ..... (old/modern) than Istanbul.
- 7 Egypt is ..... (big/small) than Spain.

