

## 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 <sup>1</sup>higher / lower than
- salaries are <sup>2</sup>quite a bit / a little lower than
- food portions are a lot <sup>3</sup>smaller / bigger than
- most people live in <sup>4</sup>slightly / much smaller houses than
- housework is a lot <sup>5</sup>harder / easier because there are <sup>6</sup>more / fewer appliances than
- health care <sup>7</sup>is more expensive than / isn't as expensive as
- employees get <sup>8</sup>a lot / slightly more time off than
- people visit museums far <sup>9</sup>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 <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ my head! Is everything <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ larger in the USA than in the UK?  
B: Yes, except one thing: bathtubs are <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a bit smaller.  
A: Why? There's far more space in American houses <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ British ones.  
B: Americans take baths <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ regularly than British people. They prefer showers. But their shower rooms are <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

- British comedies aren't as funny as American comedies. **THAN**  
American comedies are \_\_\_\_\_ British ones.
- Andy Roddick's serve is faster than Andy Murray's. **AS**  
Andy Murray's serve \_\_\_\_\_ Andy Roddick's.
- 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.
- If you live in Boston, you grow to love it more each day. **MORE**  
The longer you live in Boston, \_\_\_\_\_ you love it.
- 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?

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



## 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 <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ shown by the biggest American TV stations. I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ my hair done like Kate's for the occasion! Do you think George <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ be crowned King one day?

**Brit:** Um, maybe, but he's just a child now, so he's only interested in <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 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?