

Making comparisons

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The rate of union membership rose to 26.2%, comparing to 25.8% last year.
b The rate of union membership rose to 26.2%, compared to 25.8% last year.
- 2 a The figure is now three times higher as compare to 1965.
b The figure is now three times higher than in 1965.

There are a number of common words and phrases that we use to make comparisons:

- **compare** something (to/with something)
*The graph **compares** the crime rates in Japan and the US.*
*It's impossible to **compare** modern films **with** those made maybe 20 years ago.*
*Many have **compared** her voice **to** Aretha Franklin's. (= they have said it is similar)*
- **compared to/with** something
*Women's income rose by 31% **compared to** only 13% for men. (not ~~comparing to~~)*
- **in comparison** (to/with something)
*US workers get very little holiday **in comparison with** their European counterparts.*
*After two weeks in a tent, the simple little hotel seemed luxurious **in comparison**.*
- **(draw/make) a comparison between** two things
***There is no comparison between** my life here **and** the way of life in my home village.*
*It is impossible to **draw a direct comparison between** the two conflicts.*
- something is **bigger/higher/lower/more important**, etc. **than** something else
*Prague has **more** churches **than** any other European city.*
- something is **double/half**, etc. **that of** something else
*Britain's population density is **double that of** China. (not ~~compared to~~)*

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Are the sentences right or wrong? Correct those which are wrong.

- 1 66.6 million people travelled abroad in 2007, comparing to 64.6 million in 2006.
- 2 Non-smokers' risk of heart attacks is roughly half that of people who smoke.
- 3 In comparative with other writers, she uses very simple, everyday language.
- 4 There is no comparison to watching a band on DVD and seeing them play live.
- 5 The pass rate was over 70% in 2005, compare to 62% in 1990.
- 6 Many more crimes were committed by males compared to females.
- 7 The article draws a comparison between his writing and that of earlier authors.
- 8 Population growth is quite high in Madagascar at 3.31% when compared to Mauritius at 0.89%.