

# 17 Making comparisons

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.*

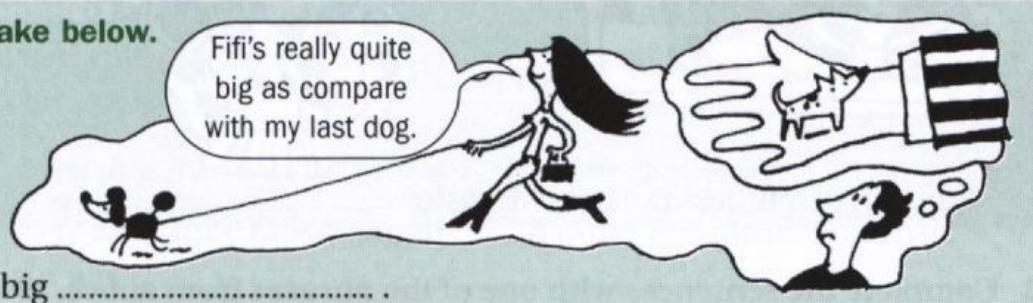
- something is *double/half*, etc. *that of* something else

*Britain's population density is double that of China. (not compared to)*

## 2 Correct the mistake below.

Fifi's really quite big as compare with my last dog.

Fifi's really quite big .....



## 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 compaired to Mauritius at 0.89%.