17 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.



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%.

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