

GRAMMAR

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

2 Complete the conversation with the correct form of the adjectives in parentheses.

A: I love my new digital camera. It was ¹ _____ (expensive) my last one, but the pictures are much ² _____ (good) quality, and it's ³ _____ (easy) to use.

B: But it's much ⁴ _____ (big). Isn't it ⁵ _____ (heavy) to carry around with you?

A: Actually, it was one of ⁶ _____ (light) models in the store. Although you can get ⁷ _____ (small) and ⁸ _____ (cheap) cameras, they're not as good as this one.

3 Underline the correct alternatives.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GADGET IN THE KITCHEN?

My favorite gadget in the kitchen is the dishwasher. It's ¹ *much/a lot* more faster than I am at *doing the dishes*. The problem is that I'm getting ² *a slightly/a little bit* lazier. **Yun**

The toaster. Morning is ³ *by far/slightly* the best time of the day for me. I enjoy a relaxing breakfast. And toast is ⁴ *a lot/more* tastier than bread. I love it. **Katia**

I don't cook very much because I'm too busy. I have a microwave, which I find makes it ⁵ *more/a bit* easier. Now, I eat ⁶ *a slightly/a little bit* better than I did before. **Nguyen**

VOCABULARY

TECHNOLOGY

4 A Underline the correct alternative.

- 1 He's six months old. He's been to the doctor to get his *genetic engineering/vaccinations*.
- 2 We are running out of coal, so the government is looking at new ways of making *electricity/computer networks*.
- 3 The government is planning to build new *nuclear power/genetic engineering* stations, but many people are worried that they are too dangerous.
- 4 The company has just invested thousands of dollars in its new *computer network/antibiotics* to improve communication between employees.
- 5 It sounds like you have a chest infection. I think you need some *solar power/antibiotics*.
- 6 NASA has decided to restart its *communications satellites/space travel* program and try to send people to Mars.
- 7 They rode their *commercial airplanes/motorcycle* right up through to the United States and Canada. The trip took several weeks.

B Match words in italics from Exercise 4A with definitions 1–8.

- 1 The science of changing the genes of a living thing _____
- 2 The energy created when you split or join two atoms _____
- 3 Drugs used to kill bacteria and cure infections _____
- 4 Power carried by wires and used to make lights and machines work _____
- 5 Exploration of the area beyond Earth where the stars and planets are _____
- 6 Machines that are sent into space and travel around Earth, sending radio and television signals _____
- 7 Energy from the sun _____
- 8 An injection given to someone to protect them from a disease _____

VOCABULARY

INFORMATION

1 Cross out the alternative that is not possible in each sentence.

- 1 The class had a really good *debate/discussion/reply* about the environment.
- 2 He's sure he's right, so if you disagree with him, he will *argue/quarrel/inquire* about it.
- 3 You should try to *respond to/argue/reply to* emails as quickly as possible.
- 4 I *questioned/looked into/inquired* about renting a car, but it was too expensive.
- 5 My brother and I always *argued/quarreled/replied* about everything when we were young.
- 6 I've always *wondered about/questioned/quarreled* this man's motivation.
- 7 The *look into/research/investigation* was a waste of time; we found no solutions.
- 8 His newspaper column *debates/inquires/discusses* the issues of the day.

VOCABULARY PLUS

WORD BUILDING: ADJECTIVES

7 Complete the text with the correct form of the words in parentheses.

THE PNEUMATIC TIRE: HOW DID IT START?

John Dunlop, a Scottish vet, was ¹ _____ (response) for one of the world's great inventions. Dunlop's young son kept falling off his tricycle because its tires were ² _____ (use) on the bumpy streets. Dunlop thought of a ³ _____ (create) solution: filling the rubber tires with air. This, he realized, would be an ⁴ _____ (ease) way to make the tricycle more stable. He was right: it turned out to be a very ⁵ _____ (effect) solution. Lots of cyclists copied the idea, and the air tire became very ⁶ _____ (success). French car makers realized it was a ⁷ _____ (value) idea and produced air-filled car tires. The tires also became very ⁸ _____ (profit); Dunlop Tires is still a huge company.