Language in Practice
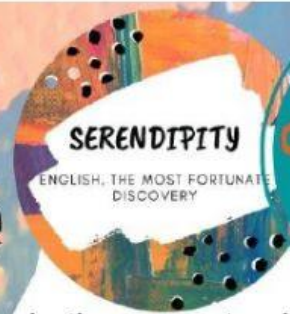
a Write the comparative forms of these adjectives in the correct column.

bad   beautiful   cheap   dry   sad   difficult   dirty

cold   far   wet   high   hungry   comfortable   thin   good

one syllable= + er	1 vowel + 1 consonant = double consonant + er	1 or 2 syllables ending in y= +ier	2 or more syllables = more+ adjective	irregular

b Write sentences using the opposite adjective.

1 A bike is slower than a car.

   A car is faster than a bike   .

2 Lions are smaller than tigers.

   Tigers _____

3 Ireland is wetter than Italy.

   Italy _____

4 January is longer than February.

   February _____

5 A laptop is more expensive than an iPod.

   An iPod _____

6 Fridays are better than Mondays.

   Mondays _____

7 A cooker is hotter than a fridge.

   A fridge _____

8 Italian is easier than Russian.

   Russian _____

Language in Practice

c Listen and choose.

1.	☐ 104	☐ 304
2.	☐ 586	☐ 596
3.	☐ 2,670	☐ 2,660
4.	☐ 8,905	☐ 9,905
5.	☐ 11,750	☐ 12,750
6.	☐ 543,830	☐ 553,830
7.	☐ 1,315,000	☐ 1,350,000
8.	☐ 25,460,000	☐ 35,460,000

d Write the numbers in words

125 ....

895 ....

4,500 ....

12,470 ....

33,930 ....

575,600 ....

6,250,000 ....

34,800,265 ....

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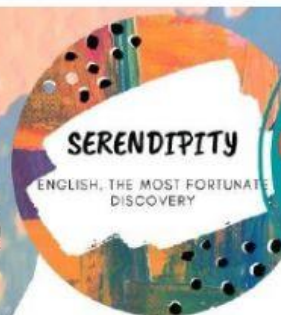
e Put the words in the chart.

better   cheaper   colder   dirtier   drier   easier
healthier   higher   shorter   slower   taller   worse

tree	horse	bird	egg	phone	bike
___	___	___	*better*	___	___
___	___	___	___	___	___

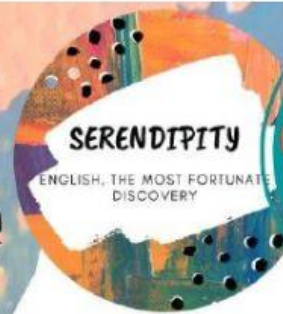f Read the article. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

1 Cycling is safer than driving. ☐

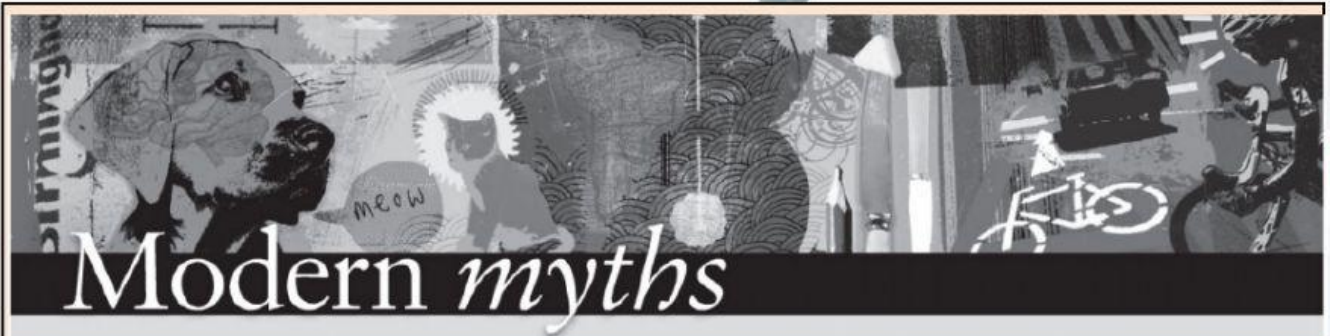2 Dogs are more intelligent than cats. ☐

3 South America is bigger than North America. ☐

4 Margarine is healthier than butter. ☐

Language in Practice

Modern *myths*

1 Scientists at Oxford University did some research into the brains of different groups of mammals. They looked at the changes in the size of the brains over the last 60 million years and they discovered that there were bigger changes in dogs' brains than there were in cats' brains. They think that dogs are cleverer than cats because they are more social.

2 There are 12 countries in South America including Argentina and Brazil. It has an area of 17,840,000 square kilometres and its population is over 371,090,000. North America includes Canada and the USA but it also contains the countries of Central America. It covers an area of about 24,709,000 square kilometres and its population is nearly 529 million. This makes it bigger than South America.

3 When the British Medical Journal studied the number of people injured in traffic accidents in the UK, they got a surprise. They discovered that for every 100 car passengers who went to hospital, there were 68 cyclists. However, a lot of people travel by car, and only a few go by bike, so the results show that cycling is actually more dangerous than driving.

4 Experts have different opinions about margarine and butter, and there is a big argument about which one is better for you. The truth is that margarine today is better than it was in the past because producers use a different type of vegetable oil. Butter still contains a lot of animal fat. Margarine today contains less fat which makes it healthier than butter.

g Check the meaning of the highlighted words in the text.

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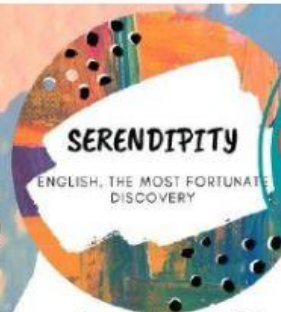
h Listen to a conversation between a couple talking about two cities with the same name. Write T (true) or F (false).

1 More people live in Birmingham UK than Birmingham USA. ☐

2 Birmingham UK is bigger than Birmingham USA. ☐

3 Birmingham USA is greener than Birmingham UK. ☐

4 Birmingham USA is older than Birmingham UK. ☐

5 Birmingham USA is wetter than Birmingham UK. ☐

6 Birmingham UK is colder than Birmingham USA. ☐

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES
Learn these words and phrases.
☐ contestants
☐ population
☐ prize
☐ approximately
☐ win a competition