Grammar & Writing practice

C Grammar exercises

1 **Fill in the gaps with the adjectives in the box in a comparative or superlative form.**

brave effective exciting expensive ~~fast~~ happy good heavy small

1 I travelled through Turkey by train because it was the fastest way to cross the country.
2 Scientists have discovered a tiny bacteria living in the deep ocean. They say it is ..... living organism known to man.
3 It is almost impossible to find a parking space in the city centre so it is ..... to travel by public transport if you need to go there.
4 Pain killers are much ..... now so they reduce pain a lot faster than in the past.
5 I like all kinds of sports, but I think football is ..... game to watch because it is so fast-moving.
6 Nick did a bungee-jump, but I was too scared. He's much ..... than me.
7 I think people from the north of my country are ..... than people from the south. In the south no one ever seems to smile, but it's the opposite in the north.
8 The website listed hotels in a wide price range. I was amazed that the ..... ones cost over $500 a night.
9 Weightlifters these days are lifting ..... weights than ever before.

2 **Fill in the gaps with the words in brackets in a comparative or superlative form.**

Teacher: What are 1 the most obvious (*obvious*) differences you have noticed between your own country and this one?

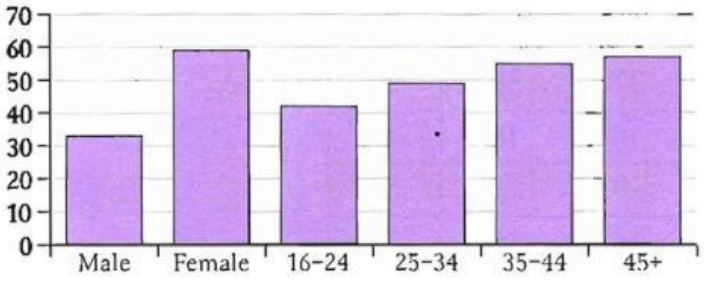
Student: Oh there are so many! In my country people are 2 not as interested (*not/interested*) in foreigners as people here, who are much 3 ..... (*friendly*). They are always kind and welcoming. Also, the weather is very different. It's much 4 ..... (*hot*) in my country. It's only autumn but I am feeling cold here already and it's getting 5 ..... (*cold*) every day. I don't like that. Then there's the food. Your food is 6 ..... (*not/good*) ours. Our food is 7 ..... (*spicy*) and 8 ..... (*delicious*). I think it's 9 ..... (*good*) in the world! It is 10 ..... (*not/expensive*) either. I've also noticed that people here eat slightly 11 ..... (*early*) and they eat their meals 12 ..... (*quickly*). And I am beginning to change my own habits too! 13 ..... (*long*) I stay here 14 ..... (*fast*) I seem to be eating.

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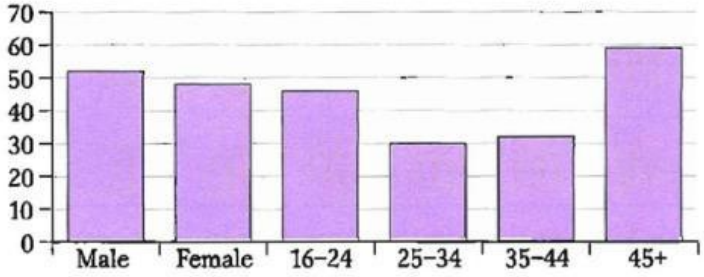
3 Fill in the gaps in the model answer below. Use one word in each gap.

The charts below show the number and types of books bought by men and women and four different age groups in the UK.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Percentage who buy fiction



Percentage who buy non-fiction

The charts give information about the types of books that British men and women and different age groups buy. The initial impression from the charts is that women tend to buy **1** ..more.. books than men overall, although they buy slightly **2** ..... non-fiction books. The people that buy the **3** ..... books are in the 45+ age group.

Nearly 60% of women buy fiction, which is almost **4** ..... as many as the number of men who choose this type of book. Nevertheless, most age groups buy **5** ..... fiction books than non-fiction ones showing that non-fiction is generally **6** ..... popular than fiction.

The number of people buying fiction increases steadily from ages 16 to 45 with the **7** ..... number of books, at just over 40% of the age group, bought by 16- to 24-year-olds and the **8** ..... number, at just over 50%, bought by the over 45s.

However, the pattern is different for non-fiction. The number of books bought by 25- to 44-year-olds is **9** ..... lower than the number bought by 16- to 24-year-olds and those over 45. Just over 40% of 16- to 24-year-olds buy non-fiction, but this number is not **10** ..... high as the number of people aged 45 and over buying non-fiction, at nearly 60%. Only 31% of 35- to 44-year-olds buy non-fiction, and the number of 24- to 34-year-olds is **11** ..... lower at 28%.

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4 **Read the description of the table below. Decide if the underlined comparisons are correct or not. Tick (✓) them if they are right and correct them if they are wrong.**

2004 Olympic Games Medal Table					
Rank	**Country**	**Gold**	**Silver**	**Bronze**	**Total**
1	United States	35	39	29	103
2	China	32	17	14	63
3	Russia	27	27	38	92
4	Australia	17	16	16	49
5	Japan	16	9	12	37
6	Germany	14	16	18	48
7	France	11	9	13	33
8	Italy	10	11	11	32
9	South Korea	9	12	9	30
10	Great Britain	9	9	12	30

The table shows the number of medals won by the top ten countries in the 2004 Olympic Games. The USA won **1** greatest number of medals overall with a total of 103. They won **2** more silver medals as gold and **3** more medals than any other country in both categories. China had **4** the second high number of medals at 63, but unlike the USA, China won **5** less silver medals than gold medals. While Russia's silver medal total was **6** more good than China's, they did not do **7** well as China in the gold medals, winning just 27. In fact China had a **8** more lower overall medal total than Russia but, as the table is based on the number of gold medals won, they were placed second. Similarly, Germany was **9** significantly successful at winning medals than Japan, with a total of 48 compared to Japan's 37, but because Japan won **10** two more gold medals that Germany they were ranked **11** higher. Great Britain gave **12** the worse performance in this group, winning only nine gold and nine silver medals.

1 the greatest
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
10 .....
11 .....
12 .....

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D Test practice

Academic Writing Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the average hours worked per day by married men and women in paid employment.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

You should write at least 150 words.



Grammar focus task

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences using the correct form of the words in brackets and any other words you need.

1 The total number of hours worked by married women with children is ..... (*great*) the total number of hours worked by men.

2 Whilst women aged 45 to 64 may work ..... (*few*) hours inside the home than younger women, overall they work ..... (*great*) number of hours per day due to the extra hours of paid work that they do.

3 Men aged 25 to 44 spend only ..... (*slight/more*) time working outside the home than men aged 45 to 64, but this figure is ..... (*significant/high*) the number of hours of paid work that women of the same age do.

4 Women in the 25 to 44 age group work almost ..... (*many*) hours inside the home as outside, and there is only a slight difference in the 45 to 64 age group.

5 However, men work on average ..... (*three/long*) outside the home than inside.

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Vocabulary practice

People: physical appearance

A Words describing people's physical appearance

Read these quotations taken from essays where students were asked to describe their family members.



My father has a **round face** and a **droopy**[1] **moustache**. My mother has a more **pointed face** and a **straight nose**. My younger sister is more like my father. She has an **oval**[2] **face** and an **upturned nose**. My older sister is like a model. She has a **slim figure** and a **slender**[3] **waist**. She has a **lovely complexion**[4] and beautiful **sleek**[5], **shoulder-length hair**, and she's always **immaculately groomed**[6]. I feel so ordinary next to her – I've got **coarse**[7] **hair** and rather **broad hips**, but she always says I look nice.

[1] long and hanging down heavily
[2] shaped like an egg
[3] attractively slim (a rather formal, poetic word)
[4] the natural colour and quality of a person's skin
[5] smooth and shiny
[6] her appearance is always tidy and looked after with great care
[7] rough, and not smooth or soft

My father and my two older brothers are all **well-built**[8] with **broad shoulders**. My father is **going bald** but he still has a very **youthful appearance** for someone who is over forty. My brothers both have **thick hair** and **bushy**[9] **eyebrows**. My younger brother is only two, but he's very cute, with **chubby cheeks**[10]. My mother's side of the family mostly have **dark hair** – in fact my mother had **jet-black hair**[11] when she was younger, before she **went grey** – but on my father's side, some have **fair hair** and some have **ginger**[12] **hair**.

[8] have strong, attractive bodies
[9] very thick
[10] fat in a pleasant and attractive way
[11] completely black
[12] a red or orange-brown colour; used of people's hair

B More collocations describing appearance

A short, **dumpy woman** was selling flowers at a stall on the street corner. [short and quite fat woman; used more often of women than of men. This collocation is slightly negative, so be careful how you use it.]

A **portly gentleman** answered the door. [fat and round; usually used of middle-aged and older men]

A **lanky youth** was standing at the street corner. [tall and thin and tending to move awkwardly]

I wouldn't like people to see me with **dishevelled hair** and dirty clothes. [very untidy; used of people's hair and appearance]

He **bears a striking resemblance to** his father. [looks remarkably like]

The lady who entered the room **had** a very **striking appearance**. [unusual appearance, in a positive, attractive sense]

Tip

Sometimes words are very restricted in what they can collocate with. The colour adjectives *blonde*, *ginger* and *auburn*[1] are only used of people's hair (not, for example, their clothes or other objects). When a word has restricted collocations, make a special note in your vocabulary notebook.
[1] reddish brown

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Exercises

1 **Put the words from the box into the 'fat' or 'thin' column, then answer the questions.**

portly	lanky	slender	dumpy	slim	chubby

'fat' words	'thin' words

1 Which words could be used to describe someone's waist?
2 Which word is likely to be used of a rather physically awkward young person?
3 Which word means 'fat but in a pleasant way'?
4 Which word is more likely to be used to describe a man rather than a woman?
5 Which word is more likely to be used to describe a woman rather than a man?

2 **Look at B. Then match the adjectives in the first box below with the nouns in the second box.**

bushy	oval	striking	broad	droopy	chubby	dishevelled

cheeks	moustache	shoulders	hair	eyebrows	resemblance	face

3 **Fill the gaps with appropriate collocations. You are sometimes given the first letter(s).**

I hadn't seen Owen since he was just a baby, so I was surprised to see that he was now a tall young man. He was (1) im..... gr..... , smart and elegant. He was with a pretty young woman with (2) j.....-black, (3) shoulder-..... hair and a (4) l..... com..... . She could have been a model, she had such a (5) str..... ap..... . He had his arm round her (6) s..... wa..... . With them was a (7) po..... g..... , who looked as though he enjoyed good food, and who was probably her father. When I introduced myself to Owen, he smiled. 'Of course, I remember you,' he said. 'You used to work with my father. But you haven't aged at all! You have a much more (8) y..... a..... than my father now does. Dad has (9) ..... very grey.' I felt very pleased when he said that; he obviously didn't notice I was beginning to (10) ..... bald. Everyone likes to think they look young when they get older.

4 **Use the words from the box to fill the gaps to give contrasting meanings.**

round	coarse	upturned	fair	pointed	straight	dark	sleek

1 Her hair's not ....., it's quite ....., in fact it's almost black.
2 She has an ..... nose but her brother has a ..... nose.
3 Her mother has a ..... face but her father has a ..... face.
4 My hair is so ..... and ugly; Sally's is so ..... and lovely.

Over to you

Think of a relative or friend of yours. Write a short description using collocations from this unit.

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