

(4) COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

ACTIVITY 1: Read the text and answer the question.
What is a shooting star?

Part 1

On a clear night, you can often see meteors – space rocks – as they fall towards the Earth. Each rock is smaller than an apple, but they look as bright as stars in the night sky, so people call them 'shooting stars'. Larger meteors are much rarer, but their effects are far more spectacular. In 2013, a meteor exploded in the sky above the city of Chelyabinsk in Russia. The explosion was more powerful than the 1945 Hiroshima atomic bomb, but its effect was not as devastating as the bomb because the meteor exploded much further from the ground. Scientists compared the Chelyabinsk meteor to an earlier – and far bigger – explosion: the Tunguska Event.

ACTIVITY 2: Complete the table with comparative adjectives from the text.

Short adjective	Comparative	Rule
small	1	+ <i>-er</i>
large	2	+ <i>-r</i>
early	3	<i>-y</i> → <i>-ier</i>
big	4	double consonant + <i>-er</i>
Long adjective	Comparative	Rule
powerful	5	<i>more</i> + adjective
Irregular adjective	Comparative	
far	6	(no rules)
good	better	
bad	worse	

ACTIVITY 3: Read the box and complete Part 2 of the text with the comparative form of the words in brackets.

Part 2

The Tunguska Event of 1908 was ¹_____ (far) from a city so ²_____ (few) people saw it, but it was much ³_____ (powerful) than the one in Chelyabinsk. It destroyed more than 80 million trees in the Siberian forest, so it's lucky it was not ⁴_____ (close) to a town or city. The night sky became ⁵_____ (bright) than normal for a few days, and people a hundred kilometres away could read a newspaper outdoors even at midnight. Most scientists believe it was a meteor explosion, but there are some ⁶_____ (unusual) theories too. Perhaps it was a UFO!

ACTIVITY 4: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

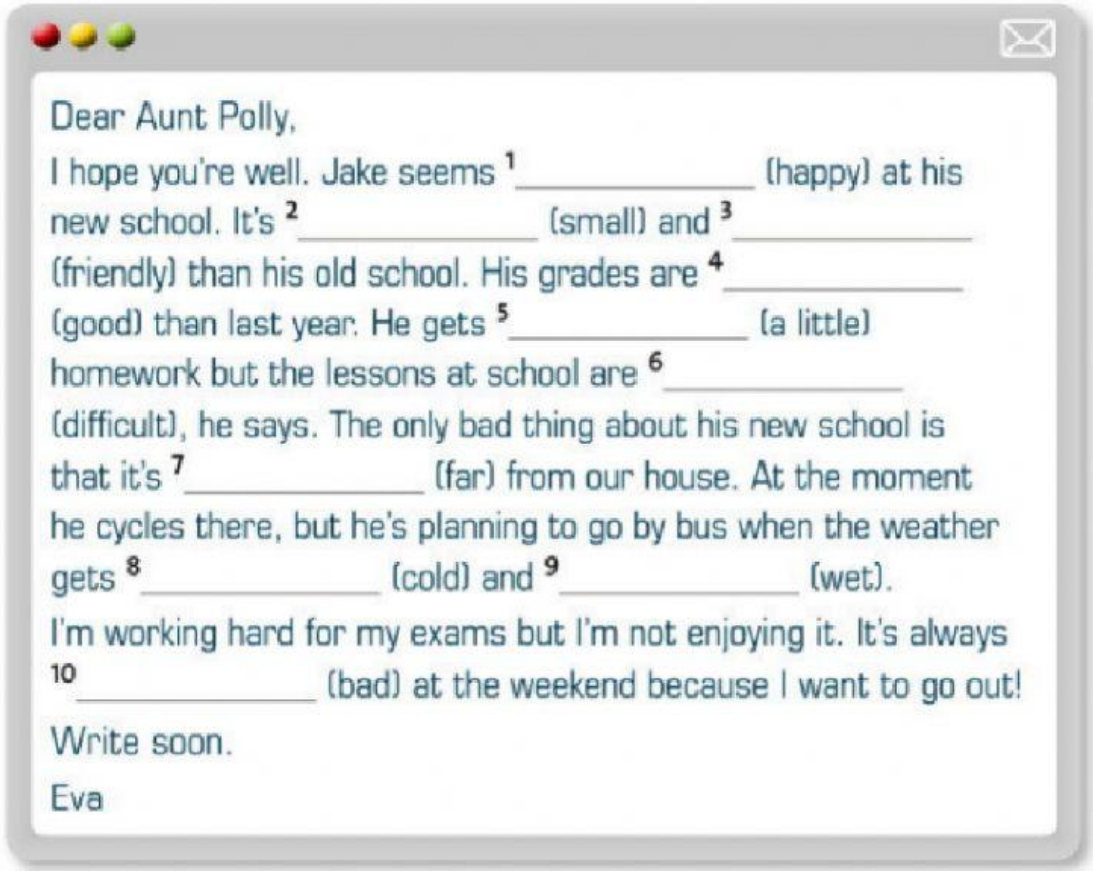
Example:

1. My brothers often fight, but **Tom is much stronger than Nathan** (Tom / much / strong / Nathan) so he usually wins.
2. Delhi is bigger than Mexico city but _____ (it / not as / large) Tokyo.
3. The Chelyabinsk explosion _____ (much / small) than the Tunguska Event.
4. Occasionally, hail stones can _____ (be / big / as) tennis balls!
5. A hurricane _____ (much / powerful) an ordinary storm.

ACTIVITY 5: Write the comparative form of the adjectives and quantifiers.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 small _____ | 7 few _____ |
| 2 large _____ | 8 many _____ |
| 3 early _____ | 9 far _____ |
| 4 powerful _____ | 10 wet _____ |
| 5 much _____ | 11 pretty _____ |
| 6 bright _____ | 12 frightening _____ |

ACTIVITY 6: Complete the email with the comparative form of the adjectives and quantifiers in brackets.



Dear Aunt Polly,

I hope you're well. Jake seems ¹ _____ (happy) at his new school. It's ² _____ (small) and ³ _____ (friendly) than his old school. His grades are ⁴ _____ (good) than last year. He gets ⁵ _____ (a little) homework but the lessons at school are ⁶ _____ (difficult), he says. The only bad thing about his new school is that it's ⁷ _____ (far) from our house. At the moment he cycles there, but he's planning to go by bus when the weather gets ⁸ _____ (cold) and ⁹ _____ (wet).

I'm working hard for my exams but I'm not enjoying it. It's always ¹⁰ _____ (bad) at the weekend because I want to go out!

Write soon.

Eva