

Comparing Places- Comparative Adjectives Practice Games

Part One: Personalised speaking game

Tell your partner where you live, and they will tell you where they live. Then take turns trying to make true sentences comparing the place where your partner lives to other places, each time comparing to a different place and using a different adjective. In other words, you can't say "bigger" twice and you can't compare to Kyoto twice. You get one point each time that your partner says "That's true" and half a point if they say "I don't know" or "I'm not sure". You don't get any points if they say "That's not true/ That's false".

There are adjectives below which you can use in the game if you like.

Useful phrases

"... is... er than..." / "... is more... than..."

"That's true"

"I don't know" / "I'm not sure"

"That's not true/ That's false".

Possible adjectives for describing places

beautiful – ugly

big/ large – small/ little

clean – dirty/ polluted

cold – hot

convenient – inconvenient

crowded

dangerous – safe

easy to... - difficult to.../ hard to...

expensive – cheap

famous – unknown

green/ natural – built up

hilly – flat

historic/ traditional – modern

important – unimportant

interesting/ exciting – boring

loud – peaceful

near/ close – far

noisy – quiet

northerly – southerly

old – new

relaxing – stressful

romantic

urban – rural

well-connected – isolated

westerly – easterly

What are the comparative adjective forms of all the words above?

Part Two: Describing places guessing game

Choose one place and compare it to other places such as this city or country until your partner guesses which place you are describing. You can also compare to other places like those below if you like.

Useful phrases

"I guess..."

"This place is... than..."

"The people in this place are... than..."

"The police/ Taxi drivers/ Waiters/ Hotel staff/ Strangers are..."

"It's near... but..." / "It's similar to... but..."

Possible adjectives for describing people

fat – thin

friendly – unfriendly

polite – impolite/ rude

good English – bad English

rich – poor

fashionable/ stylish/ well-dressed – unfashionable/ badly-dressed

tall – short

stressed – relaxed

angry – calm

sporty

good looking – ugly

hard working – lazy

shy – outgoing

funny – serious

musical

old – young

helpful – unhelpful

punctual – unpunctual

strict – easy-going

Possible places to talk about

Argentina

Austria

Australia

Belgium

Brazil

The Czech Republic

Denmark

Egypt

England

France

Germany

Greece

Holland/ The Netherlands

Iceland

Ireland
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Malta
Mongolia
North Korea
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Russia
Scotland
South Africa
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
The North Pole (= The Arctic)
The South Pole (= The Antarctic)
The Philippines
The UK
Turkey
Ukraine
Vietnam

Typical confusions between places explaining the differences

Choose one of the pairs of countries below and ask your partner a question such as "... and... Which one is... er/ more...?" that you know the answer to. Do they get the right answer?

Austria/ Australia
England/ Scotland
England/ The UK
The UK/ The USA
Belgium/ Holland (= The Netherlands)
Germany/ Holland (= The Netherlands)
Argentina/ Brazil
Denmark/ Norway
Holland/ The Netherlands
Iceland/ Ireland
North Korea/ South Korea
Portugal/ Spain
Russia/ Ukraine
Sweden/ Switzerland
Taiwan/ Thailand
The North Pole/ The South Pole

Make similar questions about other pairs of places, including cities if you like.

Part Three: Comparing vocabulary for describing places

Find two similar words below and make a question like "... and... Which is...er/ more...?" that you know the answer to. Does your partner know what the difference is?

- apartment building/ block of flats
- B&B/ bed and breakfast/ pension
- bus
- canal
- capital city
- cathedral
- church
- cinema/ movie theater
- city
- city centre/ downtown
- country
- country lane
- department store
- expressway/ highway/ motorway
- flea market/ open air market
- garden
- hill
- hotel
- house
- island
- lake
- mall/ shopping centre
- mansion
- mountain
- office building
- park

- pavement/ sidewalk
- peninsular
- pond
- prefecture
- river
- road
- shopping street
- skyscraper
- stream
- theater
- town
- tram/ street car
- village
- volcano
- ward

Ask your teacher similar questions about words above which you don't (fully) understand.