Role-playing warm up

- for intermediate students (about 10-15min)
- Instructions: I cut the paper for the single roles and students in groups of 7 choose one role. Each group is supposed to act as a family discussing plans for the next holiday

The father
Your idea of a holiday is something relaxing, short and cheap. Going abroad is so tiring. You like your brother very much - why not take him and his wife, too?

The mother
You want to go to some exotic place like China or Peru, for at least three weeks. Unfortunately, you can't stand your brother-in-law - he should stay at home.

The 18-year-old daughter
You want to go to the sea for at least two weeks, by plane, of course - and bring your boyfriend, too - this is the most important.

The 16-year-old son
You don't want to go with your boring family anywhere - but if you have to, it should be as short and as close as possible.

The 13-year-old son
You've never flown in your life - you very much want to try it. You like big cities where there are a lot of interesting things to do.

The father's brother
You want to go with your brother's family wherever they go - and take your wife as well.

The neighbour
You don't want them to go away, because they always ask you to look after their house, and you hate it.

The father
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1/2

UNIT 6

Describing People and Places

Asking for descriptions

X

PRESENTATION

T.13

Man Where are you going for your holidays this year? Have you decided?
Woman Yes, we're going to Corsica.
Man Oh. I know Corsica well. I spent a year there.
Woman Really? What's it like?
Man It's very beautiful. It's got everything. Mountains, beaches, and good weather.
Woman And what are the people like?
Man They're quite independent, but when you get to know them, they're very friendly. You'll have a really good time.

1 Does the man describe Corsica generally or in detail?
2 Does the man describe the Corsicans' appearance or character?

Paul Anna, what was your first boyfriend like?
Anna Goodness! Why do you want to know that?
Paul I'm just interested.
Anna Well, he was very good-looking, with dark hair and big, brown eyes. He was very romantic. He was always buying me flowers and presents. Of course, he wasn't as nice as you.

1 What do you think Paul wants to know about her first boyfriend? About his appearance, his character, or both?
2 Does Anna tell him about her boyfriend's appearance, or character, or both?

Old Lady Help me somebody please! Oh policeman, stop that man!
Policeman I . . .
Old Lady He stole my handbag!
Policeman I think it's too late, madam.
Old Lady But . . .
Policeman He's escaped.
Old Lady Mm . . .
Policeman Now tell me . . .
Old Lady Yes . . .
Policeman What did he look like?
Old Lady Ah well . . . He . . . He was medium height and err . . . quite . . . er . . . well built and he had short dark hair. Oh I know he looked like that actor man, that David Starr. You know um . . . the actor, well yes he did but he was taller than that.

● Grammar question

There are four questions on this page that ask for descriptions. Underline them. What is the difference between:
What is he like?
What does he look like?

PRACTICE

1 Talk in pairs and quickly find a country or a town that one of you knows but the other doesn't.

Student A You have been to *X*.
Student B You haven't been to *X*.

First prepare on your own.

Student A You are going to describe this place. Think of the location/size/people/weather, etc.

Student B You are going to ask questions to find out about this place. What do you want to know about the climate?/the restaurants?/the nightlife?

Ask questions like this:
What is . . . like?
What are . . . like?

Now talk together.

2 Look at these questions.
a. What does she like?
b. What is she like?
c. What does she look like?
d. How is she?

They are similar in form but they are not the same in meaning. Say which answer (1, 2, 3, 4) goes with each question (a, b, c, d), and discuss the differences between the questions.

1 She's not very well, actually. She's got a bad cold.
2 She's really nice. Very friendly and open, and good fun to be with.
3 She likes swimming and skiing, and she's a keen football fan.
4 She's quite tall, average build, with straight brown hair.

3 **T.14** You're going to hear ten short tapes. Each one is the answer to one of the questions under 2 (a, b, c or d). Listen to the tapes and decide which is the most appropriate question. Write your answer here. The first one is done for you.

1 [b] 2 [d] 3 [a] 4 [b] 5 [c]
6 [d] 7 [c] 8 [b] 9 [a] 10 [d]

Comparatives and superlatives

PRESENTATION

HOUSES & FLATS FOR SALE

ESTATE AGENTS

LOCATION	City centre
PRICE	£45,000
BEDROOMS	1 large 1 small
RECEPTION ROOMS	A living room with space for a table
KITCHEN	Small
GARDEN	No
SHOPS	Very close
TIME TO GET TO THE CENTRE	2 minutes
DESCRIPTION	Flat in a central position, very convenient for shops and entertainment. Modern and clean.

LOCATION	Suburbs
PRICE	£52,000
BEDROOMS	3 good size
RECEPTION ROOMS	Living room and separate dining room
KITCHEN	Small
GARDEN	Small
SHOPS	5 minutes away
TIME TO GET TO THE CENTRE	30 minutes
DESCRIPTION	Semi-detached house in a leafy suburb. Quiet residential street close to schools and park. Best of both worlds.

LOCATION	The country
PRICE	£55,000
BEDROOMS	1 very big 2 small
RECEPTION ROOMS	Large living room and small dining room
KITCHEN	Very large
GARDEN	Big
SHOPS	15 minutes away
TIME TO GET TO THE CENTRE	50 minutes
DESCRIPTION	A country cottage - everyone's dream. Peace and quiet away from the rest of the world. Completely isolated.

PRACTICE

Pairwork

1 Where would you like to live?
2 Why?

Group work

Try to persuade those who disagree with you that your choice is best.

Example
A *I'd like to live in the flat because it's nearest to the centre.*
B *But it's smaller than the others and much noisier. I'd like . . .*

A class questionnaire

Talk to all the students in your language class. Find the answers to these questions:
1 Who lives nearest to school?
2 Who has the longest journey to school?
3 Who lives furthest from the shops?
4 Who has the biggest garden?

First decide what questions you are going to ask everyone. These questions will help you:
Where . . .? *How far . . .?*
How long . . .? *How big . . .?*

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
Vocabulary

Vocabulary of character: What sort of person are you?

1 Put [Y] for Yes, [N] for No, and [S] for Sometimes

a. ☐ Are you generally aware of other people's feelings?
b. ☐ Do you find it difficult to meet new people?
c. ☐ Do you frequently make people laugh?
d. ☐ Does your mood change often and suddenly?
e. ☐ When decisions have to be made, do you think first of yourself?
f. ☐ Can your friends trust you and depend on you?
g. ☐ Do you generally like other people's company?
h. ☐ Are there lots of things you want to do in your professional life?
i. ☐ Can you usually understand other people's point of view?
j. ☐ Do you worry and think too much about detail?
k. ☐ Are you usually quite a happy, smiling person?
l. ☐ Are you interested in other people and their business?
m. ☐ Do you sometimes not tell the truth because you don't want to hurt someone's feelings?

2 Match these adjectives with the questions above.

Example [b] shy

☐ tolerant	☐ witty
☐ sociable	☐ selfish
☐ reliable	☐ ambitious
☐ sensitive	☐ moody
☐ tactful	☐ inquisitive
☐ fussy	☐ cheerful

3 Which of these do you think are *positive*, and which *negative* qualities?

4 What are the opposites of these adjectives?

Sometimes you can form the opposite using a **prefix** or **suffix**.
Prefixes: in-/un-
Suffix: -less

Sometimes one word doesn't describe the idea. You will need to think of a sentence like:
He/She's the kind of person who . . .

5 [T.15] Listen to these people describing someone.
Who do you think they are describing? A relative? Someone they know professionally?

9A New Year's Eve

Comparative adjectives

Picture A

Picture B

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New English File Teacher's Book Pre-intermediate
Photocopiable © Oxford University Press 2005

Richard

Age 30
Job writer
Appearance very tall, dark
Personality intelligent, generous, very talkative
☺ women with a sense of humour
☹ women who talk a lot, women with very short hair
Ideal partner _____

Sara

Age 20
Job computer technician
Appearance short, with very short dark hair
Personality generous and funny, not very good at listening
☺ men who are open and friendly
☹ men who talk all the time
Ideal partner _____

Mark

Age 32
Job vet
Appearance short, quite fat
Personality very kind, a bit mean
☺ extrovert women, women with long hair
☹ shy women, women who spend money all the time
Ideal partner _____

Rebecca

Age 21
Job model
Appearance tall, slim
Personality not very intelligent, not very careful with money, always on a diet
☺ sporty men with a sense of humour
☹ men who are shorter than her, men who aren't generous
Ideal partner _____

David

Age 25
Job footballer
Appearance tall, fair hair, good-looking
Personality funny, quite lazy
☺ attractive women who don't talk much
☹ very intelligent women
Ideal partner _____

Gill

Age 31
Job journalist
Appearance quite tall, long blond hair
Personality good at listening, funny, quite shy
☺ intelligent men who are taller than her
☹ men who are mean, men with long hair
Ideal partner _____

Andy

Age 21
Job student
Appearance long hair, quite thin, not very tall
Personality extrovert, not very hardworking
☺ women who make him laugh, women with short hair
☹ women who are mean
Ideal partner _____

Martina

Age 19
Job hairdresser
Appearance not very tall, long fair hair
Personality funny, very talkative
☺ men who work hard
☹ men with long hair, very tall men
Ideal partner _____

Ian

Age 18
Job mechanic
Appearance short, thin, with dark hair
Personality very hard-working, quite funny, a bit mean
☺ women with long hair and a sense of humour
☹ quiet, shy women
Ideal partner _____

Maria

Age 24
Job nurse
Appearance long dark hair, not very tall
Personality open and friendly, very talkative
☺ men who are good with animals
☹ very talkative, thin men
Ideal partner _____

Language focus 1

Comparatives and superlatives

Mini-task

Work in pairs or groups.

Either: *write down the name of a nearby country. Think of four differences and two similarities between that country and your own country.*

or: *talk about the differences and similarities between your country and the country you are living in at the moment. Think about the scenery, the climate, the cost of living, etc.*

Analysis

Formation of basic comparatives and superlatives

What is the comparative and superlative forms of these adjectives?

• *big* • *friendly* • *crowded* • *popular* • *far*

What are the rules for the formation of the comparative and superlative of one, two and three-syllable adjectives? Can you think of any other irregular adjectives like *far*?

Big and small differences

Match the sentences on the left with a picture on the right. Underline the phrases used for showing big and small differences.

X is slightly higher than Y.
X is much higher than Y.
X is a little higher than Y.
X is a lot higher than Y.
X is far, far higher than Y.

Look at the information below and complete the gaps in the sentences with a suitable phrase (you can use the phrases more than once).

by far the biggest *one of the biggest* *the biggest ... of all* *the second / third biggest* *one of the least populated*

	area	population
Russia	17 million km²	150 million
Canada	10 million km²	27.5 million
China	9.6 million km²	1,193 million

a In area, Russia is ..... country in the world.
b Canada is ..... country / countries in area, but it is ..... countries in the world.
c China has ..... population , and is ..... country in area.

3 Use the phrases to write sentences about:
• the Amazon • Monaco • New York • Tokyo-Yokohama

Now read Language summary A / B / C on page 142.

Practice

1 Work in pairs. Make the following sentences true for you and your partner. Use phrases from the *Analysis* to make the comparisons precise.

a My teacher is (*tall / short*) than me.
b My partner's hair is (*long / short*) than mine.
c My partner's house is (*near to / far from school*) than mine.
d I went to bed (*early / late*) than my partner last night.
e My partner's feet are (*big / small*) than mine.
f The weather is (*hot / cold*) than it was a month ago.
g Speaking English is (*easy / difficult*) than writing it.
h My English is (*good / bad*) than it was a year ago.

2 **a)** Draw a plan of your home, like this:

b) [3.2] Listen to the instructions and mark the places described. Do not write anything, but remember **why** you marked those places.

c) Work in pairs. Explain your pictures to each other.

This is my father's desk – it's one of the messiest places in the house!

Language focus 2

Comparing things in different ways

1 Find the following things in the pictures opposite.

a rug	a mirror	a sofa
a cushion	a bookcase	
an armchair	a vase	a stool

2 Look at the following pairs of sentences and mark them **T** (true) or **F** (false).

a The armchair in A isn't as big as the armchair in B. ❑

The armchair in B is bigger than the armchair in A. ❑

b There are fewer windows in A than B. ❑

There's less light in A than in B. ❑

c The sofa in A isn't as long as the one in B. ❑

The sofa in B isn't as long as the one in A. ❑

d The rug in A is as big as the one in B. ❑

The rug in B is just as big as the one in A. ❑

e The cushion in A is exactly the same as the one in B. ❑

The cushion in A is more or less the same as the one in B. ❑

Analysis

1 Underline the phrases from Exercise 2 used to make comparisons. Is there a difference in meaning between the sentences in each pair? If so, what is it?

2 Put the following phrases in the correct place on the line below:

the same as *very similar to* *more or less the same as*
completely different from *slightly different from* *very like*

exactly the same as ⟷ *similar to* ⟷ *different from*

Now read Language summary D on pages 142–143.

Practice

1 **a)** In two minutes find as many differences and similarities as possible between rooms A and B.

b) Work in groups. Explain the differences to other students. Write five sentences describing the differences.

Judit Molnar, the daughter of Hungarian parents, first visited Budapest, the capital of Hungary, in the 1980s, when Hungary was still a Communist country. She returned recently to see how it has changed.

2 **a)** [3.3] Listen to Judit Molnar talking about her last trip to Budapest and note down what she says about the following things.

- the prices
- the people
- the general atmosphere
- the shops
- the cars and traffic
- public transport

b) Complete the gaps with a suitable word or phrase to summarise what Judit says.

1 She had expected everything to be ..... different ..... how it was in Communist times.
2 Most of the buildings are ..... same ..... before.
3 She thinks the shops are ..... better ..... before.
4 These days, Budapest is ..... of ..... popular tourist destinations ..... Europe.
5 Transport is ..... efficient ..... it was.
6 There used to be ..... traffic ..... there is now, and pollution is ..... bad ..... before.
7 Many things are ..... similar ..... the rest of Europe now.

Pronunciation

1 [3.4] Write down the number of words you hear.

2 When words are said together, many 'weak' vowels are pronounced /ə/. Notice the sound /ə/ in the following phrases. Practise saying the phrases, then the complete sentences.

a a /ə/ lot better than /ðən/
b just the same as /əz/
c completely different from /frəm/
d not as /əz/ cheap as /əz/
e more or /ə/ less the /ðə/ same as /əz/
f very similar to /tə/

Wordspot

place

1 Can you think of another word or phrase to replace those with *place* underlined in the following sentences? Look at the diagram below to help you if necessary.

a There are no ~~places~~ *vacancies* left in the morning class, but there are still one or two in the evening.
b She comes from a place called Murcia in Spain.
c I found a cheap place to stay near the centre.
d This is the place where I spilled the coffee. Can you see a mark?
e She was ill, so I went to the conference in her place.
f The 1996 World Cup took place in the United States.
g Is there a place to buy wine near here?
h Slow down – there are police cars all over the place!
i When you finish with the file, please can you make sure that you put it back in its place?
j Do you want to come back to my place for something to eat?

2 Add the phrases with *place* from Exercise 1 to the correct section of the diagram below.

3 Work in pairs. Student A should look at the words on page 133, and Student B should look at the words on page 137. Check the meaning of the words either in your mini-dictionary or with your teacher. Ask and answer questions using *place* + *to* + verb.

What's a florist's?

It's a place to buy flowers.

Amazing cities

The oldest ... the biggest ... the most mysterious!

✳ The world's oldest city is Jericho, in the Middle East, which dates back to about 8000 BC. It has been destroy many times in its history (one such story is described in Bible), but it has always been rebuilt.

✳ Ancient Rome was the first city in the world to have population of 1 million. At its height, the entire Roman Empire had a population of 100 million!

✳ The world's most mysterious cities are to be found in Indus Valley in modern-day Pakistan. Known as the 'Se Cities', they are around 4,500 years old, but no one kno who built them or where they disappeared to. Whoever were, they were so advanced that they invented their ow form of writing (at around the same time as the Ancient Egyptians), and built a complete system of drains and plumbing almost two and a half thousand years before t were 'first invented' by the Romans!

Not so modern!

✳ We think of democracy as a modern invention, but i the world's most perfect democracy probably existed in Ancient Athens in 500 BC – if you were not a woman o slave, that is! In the so-called 'Golden Age', all decisions were made by citizens collectively. Even military leaders were elected, and crimes were tried by juries of between and 1001 citizens!

✳ We often imagine that the enormous cities of Asia ar twentieth century phenomenon, but throughout history they have always been bigger than cities in Europe. Ev 1450, the biggest city in the world was Peking (populatio 600,000), and most of the other 'top ten' cities were als

Reading

1 Look at the picture of Ancient Rome above and find **six** things which do not belong there.

They didn't have ... in Roman times!

... weren't invented until ...!

2 You are going to read an extract from a book of fascinating facts. First check the meaning of the following words and phrases in your mini-dictionary.

to ban a jury welfare
plumbing and drains a slave
smelly traffic congestion
a vehicle

3 **Race:** work in pairs. Find the following information in the text as quickly as you can. The first pair to find all the information are the winners.

A **two groups of people who didn't have democratic rights in Ancient Greece** [ ]

B **the first city in the world to have a population of more than 1 million** [ ]

C **the number of hospitals in medieval Florence** [ ]

D **the name of the oldest city in the world** [ ]

E **two incredible inventions made by the civilisation that inhabited the 'Secret Cities'** [ ]

F **the name of the biggest city in the world in 1450** [ ]

G **two 'modern' urban problems that also existed in Ancient Rome** [ ]

China. London at the time had a population of just 75,000.

* Tower blocks are not a modern invention either. Buildings over six storeys high existed in many cities in the Middle Ages, and in ancient Rome some blocks were so high that sightseers used to come from the countryside especially to look at them!

* Our typical image of a medieval city is of somewhere smelly and unhealthy! But this is not entirely true – in fact, public services such as bathhouses, drains and hospitals were relatively developed. Medieval Florence, for example, with a population of 90,000, had thirty hospitals with over a thousand beds. Its system of drains was much better than those of many nineteenth century cities!

* Ancient Rome had many of the same urban problems as cities today. Crime was an acute problem – few people dared even to go out after dark for fear of robbers and cut-throats. And even then many of the poor lived on 'welfare' – the Emperor's government regularly distributed bread to more than 200,000 poor people.

* Traffic congestion is not a new problem either – in the centre of ancient Rome it was so bad that Julius Caesar had to ban all wheeled vehicles during daylight hours!

4 Read the text again and mark the information (✓) if you already knew this and (!) if you are surprised to discover this. Compare answers with other students. Which information did you find most surprising?

5 Discuss the following questions.

- Have you ever visited any of the historical cities mentioned in the text?
- Are there any famous historical sights that you would especially like to see?
- If you could spend a weekend in any city in the world, which would you choose? Why?

Vocabulary

Describing towns and cities

1 You are going to answer the questions below about a town or city you know well. First check the meaning of the words in **bold** in your mini-dictionary or with your teacher.

2 Work with a partner.
Either: compare answers. Do you share the same opinions?
or: close your book and describe the place to your partner. Answer any questions your partner has.

A place I know well

1. Is it a village, town or city? How big is it, roughly? Describe its location, using some of the phrases below to help you.

- *it's in the west / south-west / centre, etc. of the country*
- *it's on the river / the coast ...*
- *it's about 50 km, etc. away from ...*
- *it's near the* ***border*** *with ...*

2. Which of the following features does the place have?

- *a* ***beach***
- ***docks*** *or a* ***harbour***
- *nice walks and* ***views***
- *beautiful* ***scenery*** *nearby*
- ***shopping malls*** *or street* ***markets***
- *an* ***underground*** *or* ***trams***
- *an industrial area*
- *a* ***carnival, festival*** *or other important events*

Does your town have any other important features not on this list?

3. You have to describe the place to a stranger in five words. Which adjectives would you choose?
crowded exciting ***cosmopolitan*** ***historical*** *noisy* ***old-fashioned*** ***peaceful*** ***polluted*** ***touristy*** *ugly*
Think of two more adjectives of your own to describe it.

4. Which is your favourite area or individual place? Which place do you like least? What are the best and worst things about living there?

Do you remember?

①

②

③

④

⑤

[illegible] words have been [illegible] out in the following [illegible]?

[illegible] is exactly [illegible] [illegible] mine.

[illegible] is [illegible] lot more [illegible] [illegible] I am.

[illegible] [illegible] east coast, [illegible] kilometres from [illegible]

[illegible] is very similar [illegible]

[illegible] industrial area is [illegible] north of the [illegible]

[illegible] conference is going to [illegible] place in Moscow next [illegible]

[illegible] do anything else, [illegible] to find a [illegible] to [illegible]

⑥

[illegible] through Module 3 [illegible] two more revision [illegible] of your own to ask [illegible].

Could you live next door to these people?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

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