

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Comparatives

Aim

To dictate sentences and then use them to make true or false comparative facts which you use in a guessing game.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two texts and stick Set A and B sentences in different places on a wall outside the classroom.

Also, make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this comparatives running dictation activity, students dictate sentences and then use them to make true or false comparative facts which they use in a guessing game.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (Student A and B) and give each student a corresponding worksheet. Have the students fold the worksheet as indicated so only Exercise A is showing.

Student A is the writer and Student B is the reader. The reader runs to 'Set A' sentences on the wall outside the classroom, reads the first sentence, runs back and dictates it to their partner who writes it down. This continues until all ten sentences have been fully dictated. The students then swap roles for 'Set B' and the process is repeated.

When the students have finished, they work alone. Tell the students not to show their worksheet to their partner. The students unfold their worksheet and use the ten sentences to create true or false comparative sentences using the adjectives shown as in the example. True sentences are marked (T). Afterwards, check the answers with each pair of students.

Exercise B - Answer key

Student A

2. Brazil is smaller than Canada.
3. A cheetah is faster than a lion.
4. January is longer than April.
5. Venus is further from the Sun than Mars.
6. An African elephant is lighter than a blue whale.
7. A metre is shorter than a yard.
8. A megabyte is larger than a kilobyte.
9. The Egyptian Pyramids are older than the Colosseum.
10. The Pacific Ocean is deeper than the Atlantic Ocean.

Student B

2. Africa is smaller than Asia.
3. Koalas sleep longer than sheep.
4. The Amazon River is shorter than the Nile River.
5. The Burj Khalifa is taller than the Eiffel Tower.
6. The United Kingdom is more populated than Japan.
7. The Sahara desert is drier than the Gobi desert.
8. Coffee is stronger than tea.
9. A tortoise is slower than a snail.
10. Lightning is hotter than the Sun.

Finally, students play a true or false game where they read the comparative facts to their partner who guesses if they are true or false. Students put a tick in the box next to the fact for each correct guess. The student with the most correct guesses wins.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

Set A

1. The average temperature in the Arctic is -30 degrees Celsius, in Antarctica, it's -57 degrees.
2. Brazil's land mass is 8 million square kilometres, Canada's is 6 million square kilometres.
3. A cheetah can run 105 kilometres per hour. A lion can run 80 kilometres per hour.
4. January has 31 days. April has 30 days.
5. Mars is 250 million kilometres from the Sun. Venus is 107 million kilometres from the Sun.
6. A blue whale weighs 150 tons. An African elephant weighs 7 tons.
7. A yard is 91.44 centimetres. A meter is 100 centimetres.
8. A kilobyte (KB) is 1,024 bytes. A megabyte (MB) is 1,024 kilobytes.
9. The Egyptian Pyramids are 2000 years old. The Colosseum is 3000 years old.
10. The deepest part of the Pacific Ocean is 11,022 metres, the Atlantic Ocean is 8,380 metres.

**Set B**

1. Mount Kilimanjaro is 5,895 metres high. Mount Everest is 8,849 metres high.
2. Africa's land mass is 30 million square kilometres, Asia's is 28 million square kilometres.
3. Koalas sleep 22 hours per day. Sheep sleep 5 hours per day.
4. The River Nile is 6,650 kilometres long. The Amazon River is 6,400 kilometres long.
5. The Eiffel Tower is 324 metres tall. The Burj Khalifa is 829 metres tall.
6. The United Kingdom's population is 66 million. Japan's population is 126 million.
7. The annual rainfall in the Sahara is 50 millimetres, in the Gobi Desert, it's 35 millimetres.
8. A cup of coffee contains 40 milligrams of caffeine, a cup of tea contains 11 milligrams.
9. A snail moves at 0.048 kilometres per hour. A tortoise moves at 0.03 kilometres per hour.
10. Lightning is 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The Sun is around 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Student A

A. Write down the sentences that your partner dictates to you.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

FOLD — — — — —

B. Working alone, use the ten sentences to create true or false comparative sentences using the adjectives below as in the example. True sentences are marked (T).

old deep short small warm far long fast light large

1. The Arctic is warmer than Antarctica.	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Brazil		<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A cheetah	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. January	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Venus		<input type="checkbox"/>
6. An African elephant	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. A metre		<input type="checkbox"/>
8. A megabyte	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The Egyptian Pyramids		<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The Pacific Ocean	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Now, read the comparative facts to your partner who guesses if they are true or false. Put a tick in the box for each correct guess.

Student B
A. Write down the sentences that your partner dictates to you.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

FOLD — — — — —

B. Working alone, use the ten sentences to create true or false comparative sentences using the adjectives below as in the example. True sentences are marked (T).

long slow strong hot populated high dry tall short small

1. Mount Kilamnjaro is higher than Mount Everest.		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Africa		<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Koalas	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The Amazon River	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The Burj Khalifa	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The United Kingdom		<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The Sahara Desert		<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Coffee	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. A tortoise		<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Lightning	(T)	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Now, read the comparative facts to your partner who guesses if they are true or false. Put a tick in the box for each correct guess.