Run Faster

Activity Type

Speaking Activity: running dictation

Grammar Game: writing sentences from prompts, true or false, guessing (group and pair work)

Focus

Comparatives

Aim

To practice forming sentences with comparative adjectives.

Preparation

Make one copy of each text and stick the Set A and Set 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 two groups (A and B). Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Students then pair up with a classmate from the same group. One student is the writer, and the other is the reader. The reader runs to the Set A or Set B sentences on the wall outside the classroom, reads the first fact, runs back and dictates it to their partner who writes it down.

This continues until all ten facts have been fully dictated. Students then swap roles and the process is repeated. Pairs then compare their facts to make sure they are the same.

Next, students use the ten facts to create true or false comparative sentences using the adjectives shown, as in the example. True sentences are marked (T) and false sentences are marked (F). Afterwards, check the answers with each group.

Exercise B - Answer key

Student A

2. Canada is smaller than Brazil. F
3. A horse is faster than a lion. T
4. January is longer than April. T
5. Rome is closer to London than Berlin is. F
6. An African elephant is lighter than a blue whale. T
7. A mile is shorter than a kilometre. F
8. Spain is more popular than Thailand. T
9. Cambridge University is older than Oxford University. F
10. The Atlantic Ocean is deeper than the Pacific Ocean. F

Student B

2. Africa is bigger than Asia. F
3. Cats sleep longer than sheep. T
4. The Amazon River is shorter than the Nile River. T
5. The Burj Khalifa is taller than the Eiffel Tower. T
6. The United Kingdom is more populated than Japan. F
7. The Gobi Desert is drier than the Sahara Desert. F
8. Wine is stronger than beer. T
9. A Toyota Corolla is cheaper in England than in Thailand. F
10. The Sun is hotter than fire. T

Finally, students pair up with someone from the other group and take turns reading their comparative facts to their partner, who guesses if they are true or false. For each correct guess, students put a tick. The student with the most correct guesses wins.

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Set A

1. The average temperature in the Arctic is -30 °C. In Antarctica, it's -57 °C.
2. Canada's total area is about 10 million square kilometres. Brazil's is about 8.5 million.
3. A lion can run 56 kilometres per hour. A horse can run 72 kilometres per hour.
4. January has 31 days, and April has 30 days.
5. Berlin is 930 kilometres from London. Rome is 1,400 kilometres from London.
6. A blue whale weighs 150,000 kilograms. An African elephant weighs 7,000 kilograms.
7. A kilometre is 1,000 metres. A mile is 1,600 metres.
8. 84 million people visited Spain last year. 40 million people visited Thailand.
9. Cambridge University is 800 years old. Oxford University is 900 years old.
10. The deepest part of the Pacific Ocean is 10,900 metres. The Atlantic Ocean is 8,600 metres.

Set B

1. Mount Kilimanjaro is 5,895 metres high. Mount Everest is 8,849 metres high.
2. Asia's land area is 44 million square kilometres. Africa's is 30 million square kilometres.
3. Cats sleep 12 hours per day, and 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 330 metres tall. The Burj Khalifa is 829 metres tall.
6. The United Kingdom's population is 67 million. Japan's population is 125 million.
7. The Gobi Desert gets 180 millimetres of rain in a year, and the Sahara gets 90 millimetres.
8. A bottle of wine contains about 12% alcohol, and a bottle of beer contains about 5%.
9. A Toyota Corolla costs £21,000 in Thailand and £23,000 in England.
10. The Sun is around 5,500 °C, and fire is 1,200 °C.

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Student A

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

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

B. Use the ten facts to create true or false comparative sentences using the adjectives below as in the example.

old deep short small ~~warm~~ close long fast light popular

1. The Arctic is warmer than Antarctica.	(T)	☐
2. Canada	(F)	☐
3. A horse	(T)	☐
4. January	(T)	☐
5. Rome	(F)	☐
6. An African elephant	(T)	☐
7. A mile	(F)	☐
8. Spain	(T)	☐
9. Cambridge University	(F)	☐
10. The Atlantic Ocean	(F)	☐

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

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Student B

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

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

B. Use the ten facts to create true or false comparative sentences using the adjectives below as in the example.

long cheap strong hot populated ~~high~~ dry tall short big

1. Mount Kilimanjaro is higher than Mount Everest.	(F)	☐
2. Africa	(F)	☐
3. Cats	(T)	☐
4. The Amazon River	(T)	☐
5. The Burj Khalifa	(T)	☐
6. The United Kingdom	(F)	☐
7. The Gobi Desert	(F)	☐
8. Wine	(T)	☐
9. A Toyota Corolla in England	(F)	☐
10. The Sun	(T)	☐

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

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