



# SPEAKING

## UNIT 9: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*



## GRAMMAR FOR SPEAKING

## GRAMMAR FOR SPEAKING Comparative Adjectives

We use comparative adjectives to talk about the difference between two people, places, or things.

| Adjectives with            | Example              | Comparative form                              |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| one syllable               | <i>tall, large</i>   | <b>taller</b> (than), <b>larger</b> (than)    |
| two syllables ending in -y | <i>happy, pretty</i> | <b>happier</b> (than), <b>prettier</b> (than) |
| two or more syllables      | <i>interesting</i>   | <b>more/less interesting</b> (than)           |
| irregular adjectives       | <i>good, bad</i>     | <b>better, worse</b>                          |

A giraffe is **taller than** an elephant.

Wildlife documentaries are **more interesting than** other TV shows.

We often use comparative forms when we give our opinion.

A: Do you prefer English or math?

B: I **think** English is **more interesting than** math because...

We don't always use the *than* phrase when we know what it refers to.

**B** Look at the photos and read the information about two more species of penguin. With a partner, say sentences to compare the two species. Use the adjectives in the box.

big      heavy      light      colorful      short      small      tall

> The population of the Adélie Penguin is **bigger than** the population of the Rockhopper Penguin.

| Penguin Fact File   |                 |                      |                 |   |  |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|--|
|  | 70 cm (27.5 in) | Average height       | 56 cm (22 in)   |  |  |
|   | 4.5 kg (10 lbs) | Average weight       | 2.5 kg (5.5 lb) |   |  |
|   | 4,740,000       | Estimated population | 480,600         |   |  |
| Adélie Penguin  |                 |                      |                 | Rockhopper Penguin  |  |

The Adélie Penguin is **taller than** the Rockhopper Penguin.

The Adélie Penguin is **less colorful than** the Rockhopper Penguin.

The Adélie Penguin is **heavier than** the Rockhopper Penguin.

The Rockhopper Penguin is **lighter than** the Adélie Penguin.

The population of the Rockhopper Penguin is **smaller than** the population of the Adélie Penguin.

The Rockhopper Penguin is **shorter than** the Adélie Penguin.

The Rockhopper Penguin is **more colorful than** the Adélie Penguin.

**C** Complete the conversations with comparative adjectives. Listen and check. Then practice with a partner. 🎧

1. A: I want to watch a movie, but I can't decide. What's <sup>1</sup> better (good)?  
A comedy or a drama?  
B: Comedies are <sup>2</sup> more popular (popular), but why not watch an action movie?  
They're <sup>3</sup> more exciting (exciting).
2. A: Let's visit somewhere new. Do you want to go somewhere <sup>4</sup> quieter (quiet), like the mountains? Or do you want to go somewhere <sup>5</sup> busier (busy), like the city?  
B: Let's go to the city. Shopping is <sup>6</sup> more enjoyable (enjoyable) than hiking!
3. A: The public transportation in my city gets <sup>7</sup> worse (bad) every year.  
So I need to buy either a car or a bicycle. What do you think?  
B: Well, a car is <sup>8</sup> more comfortable (comfortable), but a bicycle is <sup>9</sup> less expensive (expensive). How far do you travel every day?

**G** Look at the two photos below and think about how the places are different. Add your ideas to this chart. Your ideas can be facts or your opinions.

#### Natural places

- quieter
- less stressful

#### Urban places

- noisier
- more stressful

▼ Nahuel Huapi National Park, Argentina



170 UNIT 9 • LESSON A

▼ Asakusa District, Tokyo, Japan





## GRAMMAR FOR SPEAKING Superlative Adjectives

We use superlative adjectives to talk about the difference between three or more people, places, or things.

| Adjectives with            | Example              | Superlative form                   |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| one syllable               | <i>tall, large</i>   | <b>the tallest, the largest</b>    |
| two syllables ending in -y | <i>happy, pretty</i> | <b>the happiest, the prettiest</b> |
| two or more syllables      | <i>interesting</i>   | <b>the most/least interesting</b>  |
| irregular adjectives       | <i>good, bad</i>     | <b>the best, the worst</b>         |

We often use the superlative to compare parts of a group or category.

*The blue whale is **the biggest** animal on the planet.*


*The Little Penguin in New Zealand and Australia is **the smallest** kind of penguin.*

**A** Tourists often ask questions like the ones below. Complete the questions with superlative adjectives.

1. What's \_\_\_\_\_ **the most popular** \_\_\_\_\_ place for tourists? (popular)
2. Which area has \_\_\_\_\_ **the most beautiful** \_\_\_\_\_ scenery? (beautiful)
3. What's \_\_\_\_\_ **the oldest** \_\_\_\_\_ building in your city? (old)
4. What's \_\_\_\_\_ **the least expensive** \_\_\_\_\_ hotel? (less/expensive)
5. What's \_\_\_\_\_ **the largest** \_\_\_\_\_ park in your city? (large)
6. Which restaurant has \_\_\_\_\_ **the most traditional** \_\_\_\_\_ food? (traditional)
7. Where is \_\_\_\_\_ **the best** \_\_\_\_\_ place to go shopping? (good)
8. What is \_\_\_\_\_ **the highest** \_\_\_\_\_ place in the city? (high)
9. What's \_\_\_\_\_ **the quickest** \_\_\_\_\_ way to travel around town? (quick)
10. Where is \_\_\_\_\_ **the most interesting** \_\_\_\_\_ place to see nature and wildlife? (interesting)



177

**D** Read this text from a TV advertisement for eco-tourism. Choose the correct words. Then listen and check your answers. 

**ENJOY AN ECO VACATION**

This year, why not take a <sup>1</sup>(more / most) environmentally friendly holiday? Our eco-hotel in southern Kenya offers you the <sup>2</sup>(more / most) comfortable rooms in the area. It has views of Africa's <sup>3</sup>(most / least) beautiful scenery, including its <sup>4</sup>(higher / highest) mountain—Mount Kilimanjaro. Our hotel is next to the famous Kimana wildlife reserve where you can see lions, elephants, cheetahs, and zebras. <sup>5</sup>(A / The) most important goal of the hotel is to help this wildlife, so part of your money helps the reserve. Our hotel also runs on solar power, and all the food comes from local farmers. So we have <sup>6</sup>(the best / a better) environmental record than other hotels in the area. What are you waiting for? Book now for <sup>7</sup>(a more amazing / the most amazing) trip of a lifetime.



169

## SPEAKING SKILL Compare and Contrast

When we compare and contrast ideas, we often use the following words and phrases.

- **To signal differences:** *in contrast, however, on the other hand*  
*The park in our city is a relaxing place. **In contrast**, the city center is very noisy and more stressful.*
- **To signal similarities:** *similarly, in the same way, likewise*  
*Natural places can be fun. **Likewise**, urban areas can be fun—but for different reasons.*

We often use these words and phrases in more formal situations, such as presenting an argument. In informal situations, we often use *but* and *too*.



**E** Compare and contrast these things with a partner. Use words and phrases from the Speaking Skill box.

Possible answers:

. In contrast,

1. Cars allow you to travel places quickly / bicycles are slower but less expensive.

. Similarly,

2. Cycling is excellent exercise / walking is also a good way to exercise.

. However,

3. Lions are beautiful to look at / they can be very dangerous.

. Likewise,

4. Watching sports is fun / playing sports is fun.

. On the other hand,

5. Plastic is a useful material / it's very bad for the environment.

. In the same way,

6. The tourism business creates jobs / the leisure industry creates jobs.

> Cars allow you to travel places quickly. In contrast, bicycles are slower but less expensive.

## PRACTICE: NATURAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

The view from the top of the mountain was absolutely \_\_\_\_\_,  
leaving everyone speechless.



breathtaking/ picture-perfect



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

Tourists love the \_\_\_\_ of this remote beach, which felt like a hidden paradise.



unspoiled beauty





As the sun set, the \_\_\_\_\_ painted the sky in shades of orange and pink.



golden sunlight



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ was a breathtaking sight, with water flowing gracefully over the rocks.



cascading waterfall



We spent the afternoon kayaking on the \_\_\_\_\_, admiring its beauty and clarity.



crystal-clear lake



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ is filled with vibrant flowers and grasses, which creates a stunning contrast against the rough peaks.



alpine meadow





Standing at the edge of the grand mountain, I felt \_\_\_\_\_  
the vastness before me as it was was unimaginable.



in awe of



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

Visiting the tranquil beach provided a \_\_\_\_\_ from the stresses of daily life.



peaceful retreat





The performance by the local tribe was so moving  
that I left the event feeling \_\_\_\_\_.



deeply moved



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

After breakfast, we decided to \_\_\_\_\_ nearby \_\_\_\_\_ to cool off from the heat.



swim in the ... lake



The guided tour allowed us to \_\_\_\_\_ through the ancient cave filled with giant stalactites and learn about its history.



explore



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

As the sun began to set, we gathered to \_\_\_\_\_ and capture the moment on camera.



take photos/ enjoy the sunset





This park has become a \_\_\_\_\_ for families  
looking to enjoy nature and spend time together.



popular destination



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

The city's white-sand beach is a \_\_\_\_\_ that  
attracts both locals and tourists year-round.



tourist hotspot





It is considered a \_\_\_\_\_, as many travelers include it in their travel itineraries.



**must-see location**



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

The national park is known for its \_\_\_\_\_, with  
various species of plants and animals thriving there.



**rich biodiversity**



Tourists flock to this small town for its \_\_\_\_\_, which offers an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.



tranquil surroundings



*Lecturer: Quynh Trang, MA.*

We were impressed by the island's \_\_\_\_\_ with no pollution.



pristine environment





