

UNIT 6

Flying gets cheaper

▼ AGENDA

- ▶ Comparative and superlative adjectives
- ▶ Air travel file. Word groups
- ▶ Transformations
- ▶ Making arrangements

Language focus



Special offers:

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all fares are one-way

- 1 Look at the names of some airlines and examples of their fares.
 - 1 Do you know the nationalities of these airlines?
 - 2 What do you think of the fares?
 - 3 These airlines are called 'no-frills' airlines. What do you think that means?
- 2  6.1 Listen to an interview with a travel industry consultant. She describes six ways no-frills airlines save money. What does she say about
 - 1 method of selling?
 - 2 tickets?
 - 3 number of flight attendants?
 - 4 type of aircraft?
 - 5 turnaround time?
 - 6 airports?
- 3 Work in pairs. Compare your answers for 2.
- 4  6.1 Listen to the interview again. Check your answers for 2.
- 5 Complete the table. If you are not sure of the form, check Listening script 6.1 on p. 128–9.

Regular	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
(1 syllable)	big	bigger	(the)
	cheap	_____	
	few	_____	
	long	longer	
	low	_____	
	near	nearer	
	quick	_____	
(2 syllables ending in -y)	small	_____	smallest
	easy	_____	easiest
(2 or more syllables)	crowded	less/ _____	(the) least/ most
	efficient	more _____	
	expensive	more _____	
Irregular	far	farther/further	(the)
	little	_____	
	many	_____	
			least
			most


Comparative and superlative adjectives

Complete the grammar rules, using the table in 5, and answer the questions.

One-syllable adjectives

- To make the comparative, add *-er* to the end of the adjective.
- To make the superlative, add _____ to the end of the adjective.

When does the consonant usually double in a one-syllable adjective?

 Pocket Book p. 2

Two-syllable adjectives ending in -y

- To make the comparative, change the *-y* to *-i* and add _____.
- To make the superlative, change the *-y* to *-i* and add _____.


Other adjectives with two or more syllables

- To make the comparative, put *more* or *less* before the adjective.
- To make the superlative, put _____ or _____ before the adjective.

Look at Listening script 6.1 on p. 128–9. Which words do we use before a comparative adjective to show a bigger difference?

as ... as

- Do they have as many flight attendants as on traditional airlines?
- Smaller airports are usually *not as busy as* the big ones.
- We use *as ... as* to show something is the same or equal and *not as ... as* to show it isn't.

 Pocket Book p. 2

Practice 1 Complete the article. Use the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets. Check Pocket Book p. 2 if necessary.

No-frills airlines

How do they rate?*

In a recent *Which Airlines?* survey of 61 airlines, the low-cost airline easyJet was voted one of the best¹ (good) airlines, along with famous names like Singapore Airlines, Emirates, SAS, and Thai Airways. Ryanair had a _____² (low) rating than easyJet but, not surprisingly, all the no-frills airlines got the _____³ (high) ratings for value for money and the _____⁴ (bad) ratings for leg room and seat comfort.

How to find the cheapest flight

The _____⁵ (important) thing to remember is to book as early as possible and to be flexible about dates. Travelling at weekends and on Fridays and Mondays is _____⁶ (expensive) than on the other days of the week because flights on those days are _____⁷ (crowded). To get the _____⁸ (cheap) fare, fly on the _____⁹ (early) or the _____¹⁰ (late) flights on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. It is _____¹¹ (good) to book online than on the phone because all the airlines give a discount for online bookings.

Delays

In general, no-frills airlines have a _____¹² (bad) record for punctuality than the traditional airlines and there are _____¹³ (many) complaints about delays from customers of low-cost airlines than from other airlines. If there is a technical problem it usually means a _____¹⁴ (long) delay than with other airlines because low-cost airlines don't usually have extra aircraft they can use.

Changing a booking

If you need to change a passenger name or flight booking it's _____¹⁵ (easy) with some airlines than with others. For example with easyJet you pay £10 to make any change, plus the extra money if the fare for the new booking is _____¹⁶ (high). Ryanair has a much _____¹⁷ (complicated) system, with seven different types of fare. As a general guide, the _____¹⁸ (high) fares are the _____¹⁹ (flexible).

How do they rate? = How good are they?

Pronunciation

- 1 6.2 Listen to the examples. The underlined sound is /ə/. Is it stressed?

a a lot cheaper
b quicker than
c the most popular
d as busy as

- 2 6.2 Listen again. Mark the main stress.

- 3 Look at these phrases. Mark the main stress and underline the /ə/ sound.

1 easier than 4 much quicker than
2 a higher fare 5 not as cheap as
3 the same as

- 4 6.3 Listen and check your answers.

- 5 6.3 Listen again and repeat.

- 2 Work in pairs. Look at the information about four no-frills airlines in 2002. Write six questions in the Past Simple. Use adjectives from the box in the comparative or superlative form.

Example Which airline carried the highest number of passengers?

many/few high/low big/small young/old

No-frills airlines 2002 profile

	Southwest	Ryanair	SkyEurope	AirAsia
Country	USA	Ireland	Slovakia	Malaysia
Date started	1971	1985	2002	2001
No. of passengers	64m	11.1m	60,117	2.2m
No. of routes	58	76	11	20
No. of employees	27,000	1,500	100	948
Percentage of online sales	30%	94%	25%	25%

- 3 Work with a different partner and exchange questions. Read your partner's questions and prepare the answers. When you are ready, tell your partner the answers.

- 4 6.4 Listen to two people talking about the methods of travel they use. Complete the table.

Travel by	Speaker 1	Speaker 2
plane	business trips, holidays	holidays
train		
underground		
car		
bus		
motorbike		
bike		

- 5 6.4 Listen again. Make a note of the comparative and superlative adjectives they use.

Examples *faster, most enjoyable*

- 6 Work in groups. Talk about which of the methods of travel in 4 you use and why, and any other methods you use.

Think about travel

- to work
- for business trips
- to your English lesson
- for holidays
- for evening activities
- at weekends

- 7 Work in groups. Tell your colleagues about your best or worst travel experience. Then answer their questions about it.

Air travel file. Word groups

- 1 Look at the pictures. What do they show? Find the words in the box.

overhead locker	window seat	check-in desk	ticket
information desk	arrivals screen	security check	trolley
passport control	landing card	passport	seat-belt
safety instructions	hand-luggage	suitcase	label
flight attendant	duty-free shop	briefcase	aisle seat
customs			

- 2 Work in pairs. Write the words and phrases in the box in 1 under the correct heading.

Documents	Terminal	On board	Luggage
<i>boarding card</i>	<i>departures screen</i>	<i>life-jacket</i>	<i>baggage claim</i>

- 3 Do you normally hear the sentences below at the check-in desk (C) or on the plane (P)? Tick (✓) C or P.

	C	P
1 How much hand-luggage do you have?	___	___
2 Do you prefer an aisle or a window seat?	___	___
3 Could you put your bag in the overhead locker, please?	___	___
4 Did you pack your bags yourself?	___	___
5 Please make sure you turn off all mobile phones.	___	___
6 We suggest you keep your seat-belt fastened during the flight.	___	___
7 Have you left your bags unattended at any time?	___	___
8 Non-EU passengers are required to fill in a landing card.	___	___
9 Please remain seated until the aircraft has come to a complete standstill.	___	___

- 4 6.5 Listen to some airport announcements. Number the descriptions below 1 to 4 in the order you hear the announcements.

- a an announcement for passengers waiting to get on the plane _____
 b a security announcement to all passengers _____
 c a request to a passenger _____
 d a last call to two passengers _____

- 5 Work in groups. Choose a topic. Talk about the topic for one minute.

- 1 My most recent flight
 2 Why I fly/don't fly
 3 Airports I like/dislike

- 1 Look at the photos. Tell the class anything you know about these two museums.



- 2 Work in pairs, Student A and Student B.

Student A

- 1 Read about the Musée d'Orsay.
- 2 Tell Student B about the Musée d'Orsay. Include information about

a the year 1900.	c after the war.	e 1977.
b during World War II.	d 1973.	f 1986.
- 3 Student B will tell you about Tate Modern. Ask questions if you don't understand anything.



The Musée d'Orsay

Today, the Musée d'Orsay is one of Paris's most famous art museums, and it has over two million visitors a year. Yet it began life not as a museum but as a train station and hotel. Like the Eiffel Tower, it was built for the World Exhibition of 1900, and until 1939 was one of the city's main stations. Then trains started to get longer and more powerful, and the platforms at the Orsay Station were too short, so after 1939 it was used only for local trains. During World War II it became a mailing centre for sending packages to prisoners of war. After the war it served as a welcome centre for prisoners returning home. It was then used in several film sets, including Orson Welles' film of Kafka's *The Trial*.

In 1973 the hotel closed its doors for the last time. There were plans to demolish the old hotel and station, and build a large modern hotel in their place. Fortunately a new interest in 19th-century architecture saved it from destruction and in 1977 the French government decided to convert the building into a museum of art. The Musée d'Orsay welcomed its first visitors on 9 December 1986.

Student B


- 1 Read about Tate Modern.
- 2 Student A will tell you about the Musée d'Orsay. Ask questions if you don't understand anything.
- 3 Tell Student A about Tate Modern. Include information about
 - a what the building was before it became an art museum.
 - b 1981.
 - c the architect of the power station.
 - d two Swiss architects.
 - e 1995.
 - f 12 May 2000.



Tate Modern

In the year 2000 London got its first modern art museum, Tate Modern. It was a project to celebrate the Millennium and is now one of London's most popular museums. It is, however, very different from other modern art museums like the spectacular Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao or the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Both of these are contemporary buildings, designed to be museums of art. Tate Modern started life not as a museum but as a power station, producing electricity for London. Construction began in 1947 and it was used as a power station until 1981 when the price of oil increased and it became more efficient to produce electricity in other ways. The architect of the power station also designed the famous British red telephone box!

Seventy architects, including some of the best-known in the world, entered the competition to design the museum. Two young Swiss architects were the winners. Work began in 1995 and Tate Modern opened to the public on 12 May 2000.

- 3 The phrases below are from an interview about the two museums. What do the underlined words mean?
 - 1 ... the exterior is very ugly.
 - 2 ... an enormous amount of space.
 - 3 ... that huge area was the turbine hall ...
 - 4 ... ideal as an exhibition space ...
 - 5 ... the museums are similar in other ways ...
- 4  6.6 Listen to an interview with a tourist guide about the Musée d'Orsay and Tate Modern. What does she say about
 - 1 people's opinions of the buildings?
 - 2 the space inside the museums?
 - 3 their locations?
- 5 Work in groups. Choose a topic from the list and tell your colleagues about it.
 - a museum you know
 - museums you would like to visit in the future
 - art you like/dislike
 - a building you like/dislike
- 6 Answer questions from your colleagues about your topic.

Making arrangements

- 1 Read the letter and answer the question.
Why is Duncan Ross writing to Monique Bresson?

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Dear Ms Bresson

I hope you remember me from last year. James Turner introduced us at Vinexpo, and you gave me your business card. I am writing to you because I want to publish a French edition of *Wine & Dine* Magazine and would like to form a long-term business relationship with a translation agency.

Do you have time to join me for lunch one day, to discuss the possibility of doing business together? I will telephone you next week and, if you are interested, we can arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Ross

Duncan Ross
Editor and Publisher

**June**

14 Monday

15 Tuesday

16 Wednesday

17 Thursday

18 Friday

- 2 6.7 Duncan Ross calls Monique a week later. Listen to their conversation and write down the appointment (day, time, name of restaurant) in Monique's diary.
- 3 6.7 Listen to the conversation again and tick (✓) the phrases you hear.

Making an appointment

When would be convenient for you?

When are you free?

Is ... possible for you?

Shall we say ...?

What time would suit you?

How about ...?

What about ...?

Changing an appointment

I'm very sorry.

I have to cancel the appointment on ...

I'm afraid I can't manage our meeting on ...

Could we arrange another time?

Saying 'yes'

Yes, ... suits me fine.

Yes, that's fine.

Yes, I can make it on ...

I look forward to meeting you ...

See you on ...

Saying 'no'

No, I'm afraid I'm busy then.

No, I'm afraid I've got another appointment ...



- 4 6.8 Monique phones Duncan Ross a few days later. Listen to their conversation and answer the questions.

- 1 What is Monique's problem?
- 2 Is Duncan free on Thursday 17th?
- 3 Which day suits both of them?

- 5 6.8 Listen to their conversation again and tick (✓) the phrases in 3 you hear.

- 6 Complete the conversation. Use phrases from 3.

Andrew Hello. Is that _____¹?

Chris Yes, speaking.

Andrew This is _____². Could we arrange a meeting to discuss our trip to the UK?

Chris Of course. _____³ for you?

Andrew _____⁴ next Tuesday morning?

Chris No, _____⁵ then.
_____⁶ on Wednesday afternoon?

Andrew Yes, _____⁷.

Chris _____⁸ 2.30?

Andrew _____⁹. See you on Wednesday, then.
Goodbye.

- 7 Work in pairs. Practise making an appointment. Change roles and make an appointment for another meeting.

- 8 Complete the conversation. Use phrases from 3.

Armand Hello. Is that _____¹?

Jan Yes, _____².

Armand This is _____³. I'm very sorry.
_____⁴. Could we
_____⁵?

Jan Yes, _____⁶. When
_____⁷?

Armand Is _____⁸ for you?

Jan No, _____⁹. How about
_____¹⁰?

Armand Yes, _____¹¹.

Jan Good. _____¹².

- 9 Work in pairs. Change the appointments you made in 7 above.

- 10 Work in pairs. Role-play two more phone calls. Telephone your colleague and make an appointment for next week. Ring again and change the appointment.