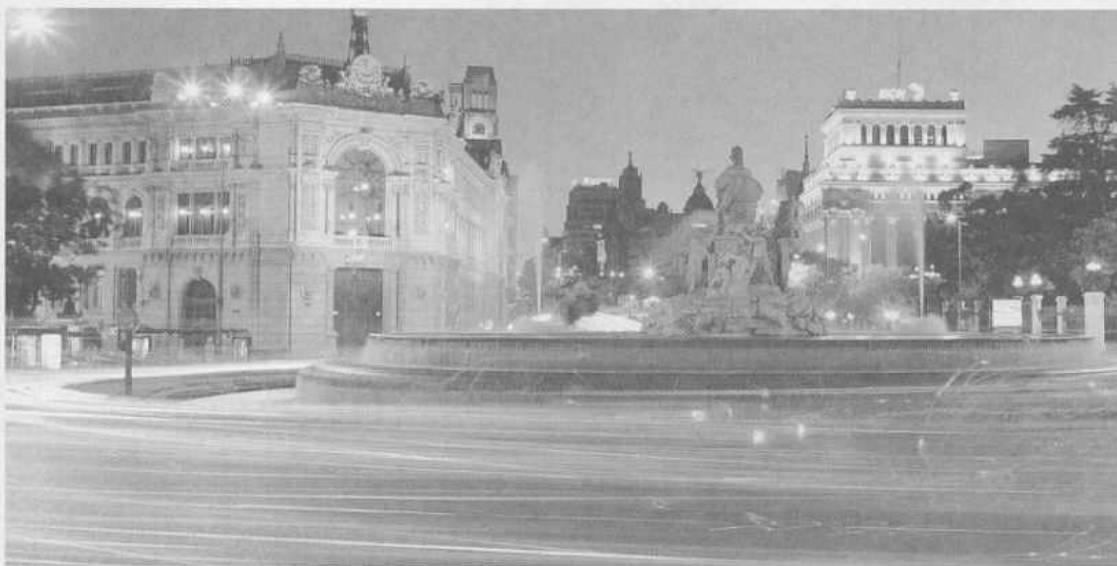


# UNIT 3

## Language focus

### 1 Comparative adjectives

Complete the newspaper article with the comparative forms of the adjectives in brackets.



## Young Europeans cross borders

While the Brussels politicians and eurocrats slowly argue their way towards a *closer*<sup>1</sup> (close) European Union, young people are creating a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> (united) Europe in their own way.

Take a look at life through the eyes of freelance journalist Pernilla Ullsten, who is 26 and Swedish. She was born in Malmö, and moved to Stockholm when she started work, but now she has moved much \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> (far) away, to the other end of Europe. She has chosen to live in late-night, high-energy Madrid. 'I find that life here is so much \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> (exciting),' she says.

Pernilla writes – in Spanish – for several magazines. 'It was difficult to find work at first, but I'm \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (confident) about my Spanish now. I've studied hard and it's much \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> (good) these days.'

Tonight Pernilla and a group of friends have been to an open-air concert. Now it is 2 a.m. and they are part of the crowd at El Bonanno's in the lively La Latina part of

town. 'I love Sweden very much,' she says, 'but nightlife there stops hours \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> (early) than here.' The conversation among Pernilla and her friends is mainly in Spanish. But from time to time they use English and Italian, for this group is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> (cosmopolitan) than most. As well as her boyfriend, Felipe, and two colleagues – all Spanish – there are an Italian and his Irish fiancée.

Multinational, multilingual groups of friends like hers are becoming \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> (common), Pernilla feels. 'Young people are \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> (keen) to learn languages than their parents were, and they are also \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> (enthusiastic) about leaving home to work in other countries.'

But does she think this is true of everyone? 'Well, I suppose it's \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> (true) of people with a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> (high) level of education and with work skills that transfer easily from one country to another around Europe – business skills, for example.'



## 2 Comparative adjectives

Write complete sentences. Use the comparative forms of the adjectives, including forms with *more* and *less*.

- 1 Pernilla's Spanish used to / much fluent / it is now  
Pernilla's Spanish used to be much less fluent than it is now.
- 2 Her home town, Malmö, / much small / Madrid  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 She feels that Madrid / a lot lively / Malmö  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Nightlife back in Sweden / much active / in her new home  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 She thinks that many young people / a lot cosmopolitan / their parents  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 as ... as, not as ... as

Write sentences about Pernilla. Use *as ... as* or *not as ... as*.

- 1 At first, Pernilla's Spanish / good / it is now  
At first, Pernilla's Spanish was not as good as it is now.
- 2 Now a lot of people say her Spanish / good / her Swedish  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 At first, finding work / easy / it is now  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Now working in Spanish / easy / working in Swedish  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 4 Superlative adjectives

Pernilla and her friends are talking about language learning. Complete the conversation with the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- PERNILLA When you look back, it seems your mother tongue was the easiest<sup>1</sup> (easy) to learn. Children just learn it as part of living.
- FELIPE But actually, it may be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> (hard) to learn! After all, children practise it all the time, and it still takes them years.
- PILAR But what about foreign languages? Since I'm Spanish, I find French and Italian are easy because they're \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> (close) to Spanish. English is harder, and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> (difficult) of all is German. And what about completely different languages? Chinese is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (distant) one I've tried.
- FIONA Of course, it helps if you really like the sound of a language. I think Italian is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> (beautiful) language.
- PERNILLA Maybe that's got something to do with your Italian fiancé!
- FIONA What, Roberto! He's \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> (crazy) man in the world! No, I love Italian *in spite of* Roberto!

## 5 Relative clauses: Type A and Type B

Underline the eleven relative clauses in the text. The clauses all begin with *who*, *which*, *that*, *where*, or *whose*. Then correct the text by adding commas to the six Type A clauses – clauses with 'extra' information.

# Simultaneous skills

A large group of students from all over Europe are visiting the European Parliament. They are sitting in the central chamber, the huge hall where MEPs meet to discuss Europe's new laws. The person that they are listening to is one of the MEPs. Glenys Kinnock whose own language is English is communicating with them in several different languages at the same time. She is doing this through the simultaneous translation headsets which the students are wearing. Some students are listening to Channel 1 which is giving Mrs Kinnock's thoughts in perfect German. Others who have turned to Channel 11 are receiving the same thoughts in excellent Swedish.

Simultaneous translation first came into use at Nuremberg, where trials of Nazi leaders took place after World War II. It is something that requires very great skill. The people who do this amazing job have to listen, understand, edit, and translate a speaker's ideas at the same speed as he or she is talking.

These days, with so many EU members, there are 190 possible language 'pairs'. This means that the translators at the European Parliament who all used to work directly into their own language now often work from one foreign language into another. Accurate translation which was always difficult may now sometimes be impossible.



## 6 Relative clauses: Type A

Complete the article using the words in brackets and the highlighted notes below. Remember to add commas.



### Estonia

capital: Tallinn  
population: 1.4m

Estonians are heavily 'into' the Internet and email. They sometimes call their country e-Stonia.

### Latvia

capital: Riga  
population: 2.3m

34% of the people are Russian. Got its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

### Lithuania

capital: Vilnius  
population: 3.6m

First of three to get independence from the Soviet Union. Has one of the EU's fastest growing economies.

## Three bright northern lights

Estonia (whose), whose capital is Tallinn, has a population of just 1.4 million. Estonians (who) sometimes call their country e-Stonia.

To the south of Estonia is Latvia (which)

This country (where) got its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The first of the three to get its independence from the Soviet Union was Lithuania (whose). Many international businesses have turned their attention to Lithuania (which).

## 7 Relative clauses: Type B

Combine the pairs of sentences to form single sentences about languages. Make the second sentence into a relative clause with *who*, *which*, or *that*.

- 1 The Swiss are the only people in western Europe. They have four official languages – German, French, Italian, and Romansch.

The Swiss are the only people in western Europe who/that have four official languages – German, French, Italian, and Romansch.


- 2 The man was a Pole called Ludovic Zamenhof. He invented Esperanto.


- 3 Saame is the name of the language. Laplanders in Finland use it.

- 4 Catalan, Galician, and Basque are all languages. People speak them in different parts of Spain.

- 5 The people speak Basque. They live in North-East Spain and South-West France.

## 8 Practice drills: comparison of adjectives and superlatives


 **3.1, 3.2** Follow the instructions on the Student's CD/Cassette. If necessary, refer to the Listening scripts on p. 80.


 Pocket Book pp. 2–3

### Pronunciation Word stress

Read these words aloud and mark the stressed syllable.

1	<i>China</i>	2	Germany	3	Canada
	<i>Chinese</i>		German		Canadian
4	Italy	5	Russia	6	Japan
	Italian		Russian		Japanese
7	Poland	8	Hungary		
	Polish		Hungarian		

 **3.3** Listen and check your answers.

 **3.3** Listen again and repeat the words.

**Wordpower****Personal attitudes**

Data-Flash GmbH wants to advertise the new post of Director – Baltic Region in an English newspaper. At present the advert is too long. Shorten it by changing the underlined phrases for single words from the box.

analytical  
innovative

confident  
motivated

diplomatic  
punctual

enthusiastic  
responsible

flexible  
thorough



**Data-Flash GmbH, Mannheim**

**Director – Baltic region**

Data-Flash GmbH is looking for a person who loves his/her work and is full of new ideas in order to head our new operation in the Baltic region. As this part of the world is changing rapidly, this person must be happy and able to change plans quickly when necessary and will also be good at dealing with people without making them angry. Our future Director will be someone who we can fully trust and will also be very certain of his/her ability to succeed due to an excellent record of success in international management.

If you are this person, please apply in English with a resumé to:

*Data-Flash GmbH is looking for a person who is enthusiastic and \_\_\_\_\_*

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## Giving opinions. Agreeing and disagreeing. Participating in a meeting or discussion

Claudia Stamitz, CEO of Data-Flash, is discussing the new Baltic region operation with her Sales Director, Harry Brice, and Finance Director, Michel Marat. Complete their conversation. Use the phrases in the box.



You could be right, but ...  
 Sorry, but could you explain what you mean by that?  
 Personally, I think ...  
 Then let's move on to the next topic.  
 Excuse me. Could I come in here?  
 ... would you like to start?  
 Do we all agree then?  
 Yes, I'd go along with that.  
 The aim of this meeting is to ...

- CLAUDIA Right. Let's start. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>  
 discuss our new operation in the Baltic region. First, we have to  
 decide on the best place to open. So, what are your views?  
 Harry, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>.
- HARRY Well, until recently, I thought we should open in Stockholm,  
 but I now feel that we should look to the east.
- CLAUDIA \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>.
- HARRY Yes, I mean the eastern Baltic states – Estonia, Latvia, and  
 Lithuania. They're small, but they're dynamic and their  
 economies are growing fast.
- MICHEL \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>. Costs are also  
 much lower there than in Sweden – or Finland.
- CLAUDIA That's a very good point. But which one should we choose?
- HARRY \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> Estonia could be  
 the right place. There are a lot of skilled technical people there.
- MICHEL \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> Estonia is very  
 small. What about Lithuania? The population is bigger, and it's  
 got probably the fastest-growing economy in the whole EU. I  
 think we need to find out more about all three Baltic states in  
 order to—
- HARRY \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> I have to  
 make a trip over there next week, so I suggest that I do some  
 research and report back to our next meeting.
- MICHEL Good idea!
- CLAUDIA I think so, too. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>
- MICHEL Yes, definitely.
- CLAUDIA Good. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>  
 That's our new Baltic Regional Director ...

🔊 3.4 Listen to the conversation and check your answers.



Pocket Book pp. 21–2