

10.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Understand comparison ■ Use adjective + noun collocations

Reading & Speaking understanding comparison



1 Work with a partner. How many places can you think of for each category?

- 1 very cold places *the North Pole, ...*
- 2 very hot and dry places
- 3 places with dangerous animals
- 4 very wet places

2a Read the Unlock the code box about comparison.



UNLOCK THE CODE comparison

Comparative and superlative forms, and words like *the same/similar/different/more/less*, help you understand comparison in a text.

*The Arctic is cold, but the Antarctic is **colder**.*

(= colder than the Arctic)

*Lions are fast animals on land, but cheetahs are **the fastest**.*

(= the fastest animals on land)

A large area of North Africa is desert, but Central Africa is

different. (= not desert)

Adults pay \$20 for a ticket to the national park, but students

pay **less**. (= pay less than adults)

b Work with a partner. Circle the comparison word(s) and underline the two things that the sentence compares.

- 1 The Burj Khalifa in Dubai is one of the tallest buildings in the world, but Everest is much taller.
- 2 We went on a tour of a mountain and a lake. They were both beautiful, but I enjoyed the lake more.
- 3 We don't really have winter. The weather in July is hot, and February is similar.
- 4 The south of the island was wet, but the north was wetter.
- 5 We get a lot of wind in the summer, and the autumn is the same.

3 Work with a partner. Read the sentences and answer the questions.

1 You can survive for only three days with no water, but longer with no food.

Longer than what? with no water

2 There were fifty runners in the first group and the same number in the second.

The second what? _____

3 In 2009, a Japanese man, Masahito Yoshida, aged 28, started walking 40,000 kilometres around the world. When he finished, he was four and a half years older.

Older than what? _____

4 We took some food on the journey, but after three days, we needed more.

More what? _____

5 In 2007, Martin Strel swam the 5,268 kilometres up the Amazon. Before the swim he was about 113 kilos and after he was a lot lighter.

Lighter than what? _____

4 Work with a partner. Read the magazine article and decide if sentences 1–6 are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false sentences.

- 1 Mauro thinks the *Marathon des Sables* is more difficult than the other two races.
- 2 The Sahara is bigger than all other deserts.
- 3 50 degrees is the highest temperature in the Sahara.
- 4 Mauro was at the front of the race before the storm.
- 5 After the storm, Mauro was in last place.
- 6 He decided not to run the *Marathon des Sables* again.

Man v Desert

People do some crazy things! Mauro Prosperi believes the three biggest races in the world are the *Marathon des Sables* in Africa, the race across the South Pole, and the marathon through the jungle in Brazil, but he believes the *Marathon des Sables* is the most difficult. It's a six- or seven-day race that goes through the Sahara Desert in Morocco, and it's about 240 km long. Deserts are dangerous places and the Sahara is the second largest in the world. **High temperatures** are usual: 50 degrees and sometimes hotter, and the runners have to carry their food and equipment. Mauro, a police officer from Rome, started the race, but he didn't complete it. There was a very **bad storm** and **strong winds** blew sand into the air, so he couldn't see. Before the storm, Mauro was one of the fastest runners, but after it, he couldn't find the other runners. The others were all in front of him. Nine days later, a local Tuareg family found him in Algeria – he was almost dead. But Mauro wasn't finished with the desert. He returned to the Sahara a few years later and he finished the *Marathon des Sables*.



5 Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

- 1 Do you think Mauro was 'crazy' to run in this race?
- 2 What's the most difficult sporting event you know?
- 3 Why do people do events like these?
- 4 What other stories do you know about people in very dangerous situations like Mauro?

Vocabulary & Speaking adjective + noun collocations

6a Answer the questions about the article in exercise 4.

- 1 Are the **highlighted** words nouns, verbs or adjectives?
- 2 Are the **highlighted** words nouns, verbs or adjectives?

b Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box and check your answers.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

adjective + noun collocations

- The collocations in the text are **adjective + noun** collocations or words that go together.
- Sometimes we use opposite adjectives with the same noun.
high temperatures ✓ *low temperatures* ✓
- Sometimes there is not a clear opposite.
a bad storm ✓ *a good storm* ✗
strong winds ✓ *weak winds* ✗ *light winds* ✓

7a Work with a partner. Match adjectives 1–4 to nouns a–d.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1 hard | a weather |
| 2 strong | b friend |
| 3 close | c worker |
| 4 mild | d accent |

b Complete sentences 1–4 with the correct form of a collocation from exercise 7a.

- 1 Yuko has three _____.
- 2 In our company most people are _____.
- 3 People don't understand him because he has a _____.
- 4 In winter there is usually _____ and the temperatures are never below freezing.

8a Make opposite adjective + noun collocations using the correct form of the adjectives in the box.

deep high heavy low strong

- 1 Is there usually ~~light~~ **heavy** traffic on your way to this class?
- 2 Did you have a low score in your last test?
- 3 Do you like weak coffee?
- 4 Which jobs usually have the highest salaries?
- 5 Are you a light sleeper?

b 10.13))) Listen and check your answers.

9 **TASK** Work in small groups. Ask and answer the questions in exercise 8a and give more information.

- A *Is there usually heavy or light traffic on your way to class?*
B *Sometimes it's very heavy. It was bad today and I was late.*