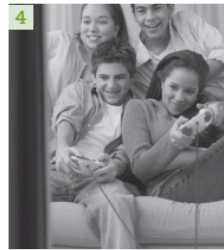
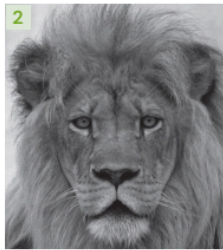


7

Adjectives

Comparative and superlative adjectives; position; order; adjectives ending in *-ing* and *-ed*

A Context listening



1 You are going to hear some advertisements. Before you listen, look at the photos and guess what will be advertised.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

2 10 Listen and check if you were right.

3 10 Listen to the advertisements again and write the words which describe these people and things. Stop the recording when you need to.

- 1 The sort of person you can become: _____
- 2 The lions and monkeys: _____
- 3 The way you feel before phoning The Sparklers: _____
- 4 The variety of games: _____

4 10 Listen again and fill in the gaps with the words that describe these people and things. Stop the recording when you need to.

- 1 professional advisers _____ route _____ welcome _____ facilities
- 2 _____ day out _____ wildlife park _____ brochure
_____ offers
- 3 _____ carpets _____ sinks and surfaces _____ finger marks
_____ prices
- 4 _____ savings _____ road races and fantasy lands _____ graphics
_____ battles

B Grammar

1 Comparative and superlative adjectives

Adjectives are words which describe nouns (things and people). > Compare with adverbs in Unit 8.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
one syllable <i>strong</i> <i>great</i>	add <i>-er</i> <i>stronger</i>	add <i>-est</i> <i>the strongest</i>
	<i>You can become stronger at Transformers Fitness Centre. We've got the greatest variety of games ever!</i>	
two syllables, ending in <i>-y</i> <i>tidy</i> <i>funny</i>	drop <i>-y</i> and add <i>-ier</i> <i>tidier</i>	drop <i>-y</i> and add <i>-iest</i> <i>the tidiest</i>
	<i>Their flat is tidier than ours. They're the funniest monkeys you've ever seen.</i>	
two/three/four syllables <i>famous</i> <i>beautiful</i> <i>self-confident</i>	<i>more + adjective</i> <i>more self-confident</i>	<i>the most + adjective</i> <i>the most self-confident</i>
	<i>You can become a more self-confident person. He is the most famous actor in the film.</i>	

A few two-syllable adjectives (e.g. *quiet, pleasant, common, polite*) sometimes also use *-er* or *-est*:
*It's **quieter** than any garden I've visited before.*

Two-syllable adjectives ending in *-ow* and *-er* can usually add *-er* or *-est*:
clever → *cleverer* *narrow* → *the narrowest*

Two-syllable adjectives ending in *-le* usually add *-r* or *-st*:
simple → *simpler* → *the simplest*

Most one-syllable adjectives ending in one vowel + *-b, -d, -g, -n, -p* or *-t* double the last letter before adding *-er* or *-est*:
big → *bigger* *sad* → *the saddest*

A few adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms:

good → *better* → *best* *bad* → *worse* → *worst* *far* → *farther/further* → *farthest/furthest*

2 Comparative structures

We can use comparative structures to say that:

- things are more:
*Our prices are **better than** those of our rivals.
We have a **more exciting** range of games **than** you'll see anywhere else.*
- things are less:
*Pre-owned games usually aren't **as/so expensive as** new ones.
The games in the sale are much **less expensive than** usual.*
- or things are equal:
*Fantasy games are **as popular as** football games with our customers.*

7 Adjectives

3 Adjectives ending in *-ing* and *-ed*

Some common adjectives are formed from verbs and have both *-ing* and *-ed* forms.

We use the *-ed* form to describe our feelings:

I'm tired. (= a description of how I feel: I've used up all my energy so I need a rest)

We use the *-ing* form to describe the things which make us feel like this:

This work is tiring. (= a description of the work: it takes a lot of energy to do it)

Compare these sentences:



<i>It's a boring film.</i> (= there's no action in it)	<i>The visitors are bored.</i> (= they have nothing to do)
<i>We had a relaxing holiday.</i> (= the atmosphere was restful)	<i>Good driving instructors always have a relaxed manner.</i> (= they don't seem nervous)
<i>That was a very satisfying meal.</i> (= there was plenty to eat)	<i>The airline has many satisfied customers.</i> (= the customers feel happy)

4 Adjective position

Adjectives in English usually go in front of the word they describe:

We visited an old house. We saw some beautiful paintings and some elegant furniture.

Adjectives can also follow verbs such as *be*, *get*, *become*, *look*, *seem*, *appear*, *sound*, *taste*, *smell* and *feel*:

Everything seemed pleasant when we started. The flowers smelt beautiful and the gardens looked wonderful. But the weather got very hot and we all felt exhausted by the end of the day.

There are many nouns in English which are used as adjectives:

a diamond ring a library book a seaside hotel folk music strawberry jam

5 Adjective order

When we use more than one adjective, we usually put them in a certain order. We say:

a strange old wooden chair (not *a wooden old strange chair*)

We usually begin with adjectives which give an opinion or general impression:

a dangerous old car a delicate oval tray a valuable silver spoon

Adjectives giving factual information usually follow the opinion/impression adjective and go in this order:

	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose	
an	enormous	old		red				car
a	small		oval		French			mirror
an		antique				silver	soup	spoon

Two colour adjectives are separated by *and*:

a black and white photograph

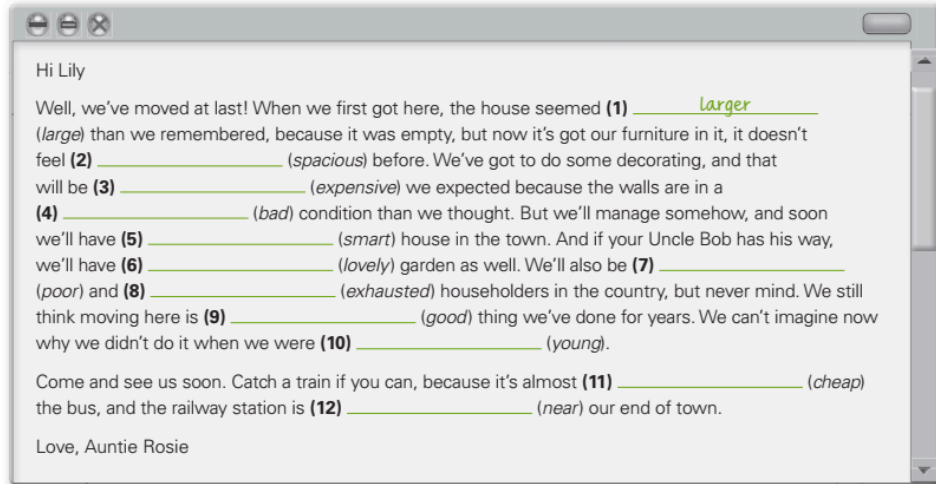
When we put more than one adjective after a verb, we use *and* before the last one:

The day was hot and tiring.

Lord Byron was described as mad, bad and dangerous to know.

C Grammar exercises

1 Complete this email with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives and any other words (e.g. *the, as, so, than*) that are needed.



2 Choose the correct adjectives.

- 1 James told us some *fascinating* / *fascinated* stories about the music business.
- 2 Why are you looking so *depressing* / *depressed*? What's wrong?
- 3 Sarah's got an *amazing* / *amazed* collection of computer games.
- 4 Felix has this really *annoying* / *annoyed* habit of reading my emails.
- 5 The *boring* / *bored* students started causing trouble in class.
- 6 I watched the show for a while, but it wasn't really *interesting* / *interested*, so I left.
- 7 The food in this canteen is absolutely *disgusting* / *disgusted*.
- 8 The astronaut gave a *relaxing* / *relaxed* wave and entered the space capsule.

3 Correct the mistake in each of the following sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

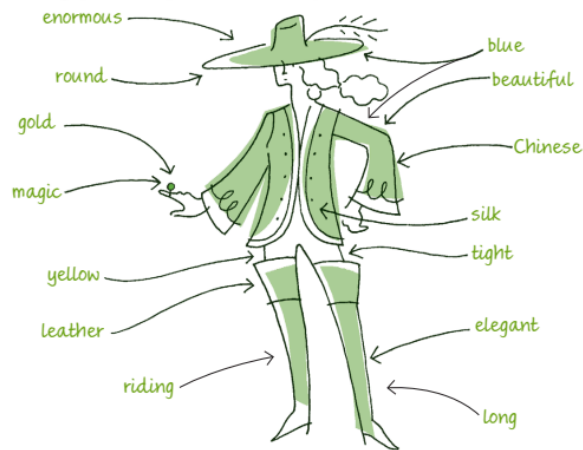
- 1 I would like to join the club as I have been ~~interesting~~ in local history for a long time. interested
- 2 Young people find it bored to visit art galleries at the weekend. _____
- 3 The hotel is situated in a place that is as beautiful than any other place in the country. _____
- 4 It is easier for me to do my studies now that I have bought a computer. _____
- 5 It's more quicker to learn a language if you study in that country. _____
- 6 I think that animals are more safe in zoos than in other places. _____
- 7 If we plant more trees, the city will be greener and pleasanter. _____
- 8 She feels even more worse now that everybody knows about her bad news. _____

7 Adjectives

4 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- 1 a That was the worse film I've ever seen!
b That was the worst film I've ever seen! ✓
- 2 a Michael's got a fantastic new leather jacket.
b Michael's got a leather new fantastic jacket.
- 3 a I didn't eat any bread because I thought it looked as stale.
b I didn't eat any bread because I thought it looked stale.
- 4 a Our last holiday wasn't so enjoyable than this one.
b Our last holiday wasn't so enjoyable as this one.
- 5 a The frightening teenagers locked the door and called the police.
b The frightened teenagers locked the door and called the police.
- 6 a Lucia should catch an earlier train if she wants to get to London by five.
b Lucia should catch a more earlier train if she wants to get to London by five.
- 7 a Our hockey team plays in blue white striped shirts.
b Our hockey team plays in blue and white striped shirts.
- 8 a I think your new dress looks beautiful.
b I think your new dress looks beautifully.

5 Look at this designer's sketch of a costume for a film and complete the notes. Fill in the gaps with adjectives for each part of the costume.



- 1 an enormous round blue hat
- 2 a _____ shirt
- 3 a _____ ring
- 4 a pair of _____ boots
- 5 a pair of _____ trousers

Reading and Use of English Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Welcome guests?

My wife Penny and I usually love to (0) A our friends but we will never invite my old friend Fred and his wife Kate again! We are currently (1) _____ from the weekend they spent with us. We've known them both since our school (2) _____. So, although we rarely see them, you'd think we'd have a fairly (3) _____ idea of what sort of people they were. However, we discovered that our lives have (4) _____ very different directions.

We have good jobs but they are very (5) _____ and we work long hours. At weekends we try to snatch a few moments of (6) _____ in between catching up with the housework. Kate and Fred are postgraduate students and they live with his parents. His mother cooks their (7) _____ meals for them and does all their washing. So they (8) _____ weekends as leisure time and never think of offering to help with daily chores.

By the time they left, we were both cross and worn out!

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> A entertain | B visit | C receive | D host |
| 1 | A repairing | B recovering | C revising | D retiring |
| 2 | A terms | B days | C times | D ages |
| 3 | A fine | B strong | C good | D right |
| 4 | A taken | B left | C chosen | D gone |
| 5 | A exhausted | B tired | C demanding | D caring |
| 6 | A extension | B relaxation | C expression | D reflection |
| 7 | A major | B essential | C key | D main |
| 8 | A regard | B believe | C think | D expect |

Grammar focus task

- 1 The words in the box are from the exam text. Which of them are adjectives and which of them are nouns that can be used as adjectives?

daily different good leisure long main old school postgraduate

- 2 Without looking back to the text, match each word from the box with the noun it describes in the text.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------|
| 1 | <u>daily</u> chores | 4 | _____ idea | 7 | _____ students |
| 2 | _____ friend | 5 | _____ directions | 8 | _____ meals |
| 3 | _____ days | 6 | _____ hours | 9 | _____ time |