

READING & SPEAKING



Schools around the World



Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Section One

A Letter from India



Dear Cara,

I hear you're relocating to India with your family. We moved here three years ago, and let me tell you that everything you know will change.

India and the USA do not resemble each other in any way. When I moved here, I experienced a huge culture shock, and you will too. For a foreigner coming here, there is so much to adjust to. The intense heat is just the beginning!

My first day of school was difficult. Though it wasn't far away, the drive there took almost an hour. I'd never known such chaotic, noisy roads in my life! All kinds of vehicles were piled high with cargo, rickshaws zoomed around trucks, and farm animals wandered through the streets. What an eventful morning!

When we reached the school gates, the entranceway was crowded with children. There are thousands of students at my school, and they were all trying to enter at once. I had to squeeze through busy corridors to reach my classroom, which had sixty students sitting at small desks that were crammed together. It was so different from my classroom in the USA!

However, things improved when I realized that no two places are the same. I accepted the differences, and living in India became much easier.

Now, there are some things I prefer about India. I adore the cuisine; the school meals here are tastier and healthier than lunch at my old school.

Also, my classmates are so kind! They helped me settle in and find my way around the school, and we became great friends. I also helped them

improve their English and now, their test scores have risen!

My best friend is Sunita. She is always very busy helping her mom with the chores and caring for her little brother, but she shows me around the city when she can. She knows some wonderful markets and restaurants! Sometimes, I go to her house and her mom cooks delicious curries.

When you move to India, you'll notice a hundred things that you'd never see in the USA. You will be overwhelmed, but I'll be here to help you. Soon, you will grow to love India, and one day, you won't want to leave!

See you soon, Cara,

Jenny



Would you like to relocate to India? Why or why not?

In what ways is India different from Hong Kong?

Let's Talk

What is a 'culture shock'? Why did Jenny have one?

How did Jenny's feelings about India change with time?

My New Words

Write each word and its definition. Next, write a sentence using the new word.

1. Word: _____ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

2. Word: _____ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

3. Word: _____ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

4. Word: _____ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

5. Word: _____ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

6. Word: _____ noun / verb / adjective / adverb

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

Vocabulary Check 1

Find new words in the text that have similar meanings to the following words.

1. **big**



2. **love**



3. **food**



4. **cars**



Vocabulary Check 2

Write a word that matches each of the following definitions.

1. To like better than something else

2. Moving to a new place

3. A person who comes from another country

Challenge Yourself!

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the words from the word box.

crowded • healthier • resemble • adjust • accept

1. Maria prefers a salad to a burger; she says they are _____.
2. It is so hot! Could you _____ the air conditioning please?
3. The MTR is so _____ in the morning!
4. My teacher will not _____ my homework, as it's incomplete.
5. Turtles _____ tortoises, but in fact they are quite different.

Section Two

Let's Learn

World Schools

Schools are different in every country! Let's learn more about schools around the world!

- In Finland, children don't start school until they are seven, yet they have some of the best grades in the world!
- Students must work very hard in South Korea. School lasts from 8:30 until 16:30, and they must study until bedtime. They also learn to play a musical instrument.
- Lunchtime is another lesson in France! It lasts around two hours, and students learn all about where their food comes from. They are also taught good table manners.
- In Australia, summer vacation runs from December to January. There are small class sizes of around 18 students in Australia, with six computers per classroom.
- Japanese students wear uniforms, and there are many strict rules about dress and hairstyle. Students learn 'moral education', which tells them how to be good people.
- Students wear what they like in Russia, so long as it keeps them warm!
- Where would you like to go to school?



The United Kingdom



China



Brazil



South Sudan

Let's Check

Refer the text, *World Schools*. Then, read the statements and tick the box to tell whether each one is true or false.

- Students who spend the most time at school always get better grades.
- French students learn how to be good people at lunchtime.
- Students can succeed even if they start school when they're older.
- Australia's winter occurs at a different time to Hong Kong's winter.
- South Korean students get lots of time for relaxing.
- Students do not wear uniforms in Russia.

True	False

Multiple Choice Questions

Refer to the reading, *A Letter from India*. Circle the letter next to the correct answers.

1. Jenny thinks that in India...

- the people aren't nice.
- it's easy to get around.
- the food is delicious.
- it is very similar to in the USA.

2. India is very...

- busy.
- hot.
- different from the USA.
- All of the above

3. Why did Jenny write this letter to Cara?

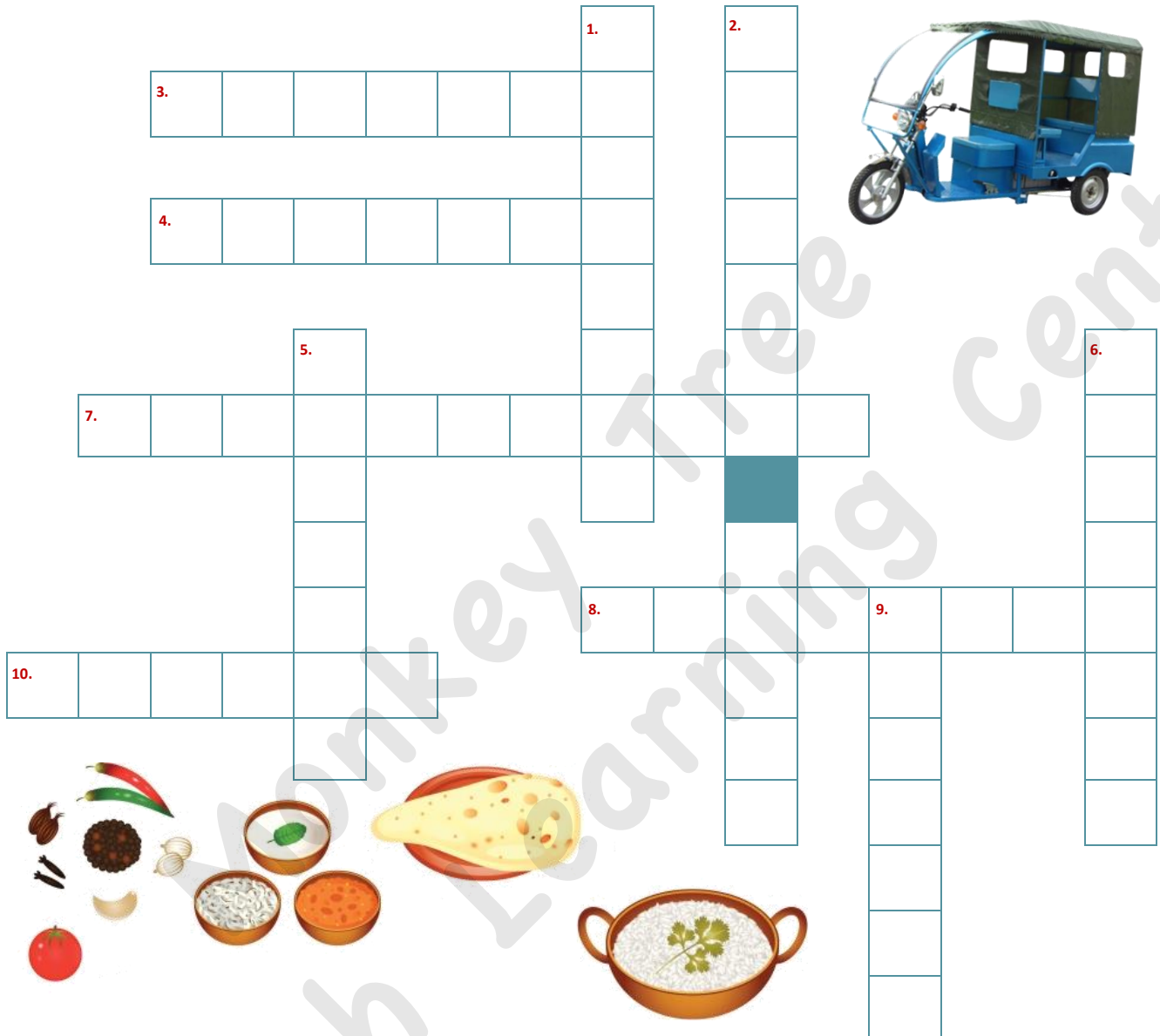
- To make her worried
- To prepare her for India
- To persuade her to go to India
- To tell her how nice the USA is

4. Jenny's classmates in India...

- do not speak English.
- have many responsibilities.
- didn't help her feel welcome.
- are from the USA.

Challenge Yourself!

Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



Down

1. To look like something, or be similar to it in some way
2. A feeling of stress and confusion caused by being in a foreign place
5. Forced into a place that's too small
6. A kind of taxi used in Asia
9. In a state or disorder and confusion

Across

3. The food served in a country
4. Strong or extreme
7. Experiencing a strong effect from something that is hard to deal with
8. Things used to transport people between places
10. To walk around in a relaxed way

Language Focus

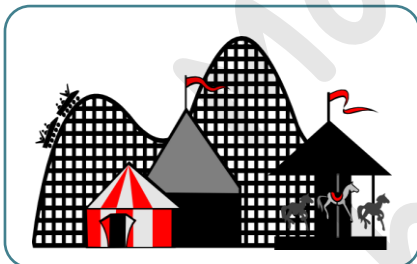
Comparatives and Superlatives

- **Comparatives** and **superlatives** are kinds of adjectives.
- We use a **comparative** adjective to compare two things.
Example: India is **bigger** than Hong Kong.
- We use a **superlative** adjective to compare many things.
Example: Sandra is the **most intelligent** student in my school.

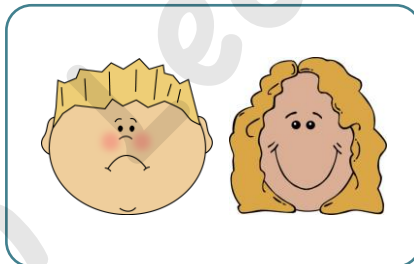
Structure:

Subject + verb 'to be' + **comparative** + than + object
Subject + verb 'to be' + the + **superlative** + phrase

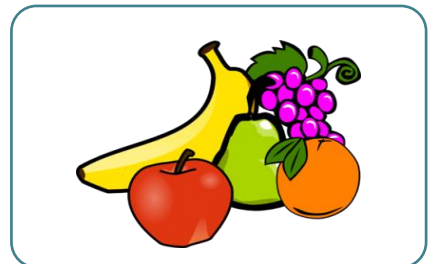
Let's practice! Use the pictures and clues to form comparative and superlative sentences.



1. exciting



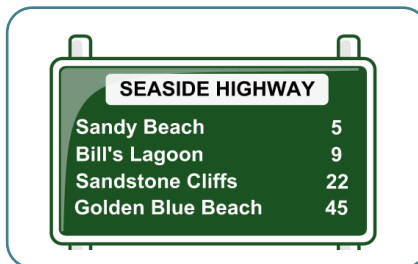
2. happy



3. delicious



4. expensive



5. far



6. good

Section Three

Simon's New School



Simon's new school stood in front of him like a hungry monster. Nervously, he went inside. He walked down the corridors with his head down. The other students chatted in a language he didn't understand and looked at him curiously. He felt like an alien.

He crept into his classroom and sat at an empty desk, lost in his thoughts. He had only been in Hong Kong for a week, but he didn't like it. His apartment was a shoebox. Whenever he rode the MTR, he felt like a sardine packed into a can, and the journey took a million years.

"It's Simon, isn't it?" asked the teacher, who was as tall as a skyscraper. Simon's mind had been somewhere else, and he didn't realize the class had started. He nodded and opened his textbook.

His next class was math with Miss Cheung. Her hair was a black waterfall and she paced around the class like a leopard ready to pounce on any student who gave an incorrect answer. Simon worked on his sums and kept quiet as a mouse.



At lunch, Simon was very confused. On his dinner tray was some meat, a boiled vegetable he'd never seen before, and a scoop of rice. He was expecting fries and a burger. He tried clumsily to use the chopsticks, but they fell to the floor.

"Want some help?" someone asked. "I can show you how to use them! My name's Joshua."

Joshua sat down and showed Simon how to hold the chopsticks, but Simon struggled. "Give it time," said Joshua, "Soon, it'll be as natural as breathing!"

They spent lunchtime talking about the differences between Hong Kong and the UK and made friends. By the end of lunch, the dark clouds over Simon had moved away – things were looking much brighter!

Is Simon having a culture shock? How do you know?

What things about Hong Kong seem strange to Simon?

Let's Talk

Have you ever been the new kid? What did it feel like?

What can we do to make new people feel welcome?



Let's Learn the Skill

Literary Devices

- Writers use **literary devices** to make stories exciting. These help readers to clearly imagine what is being described.
- A **simile** is a comparison that uses the words 'like' or 'as'.
- A **metaphor** is a comparison that does not use these words.
- **Hyperbole** is a way of describing things using exaggeration.

Let's Practice

1. Read each of the following comparisons. Label them as **similes** or **metaphors**.

a. Jill's house is as big as a dinosaur.

b. It's as hot as a desert.

c. I'm as hungry as a bear.

d. Jasmine is a night owl.

e. Velma can swim like a dolphin.

f. My mom is as tall as a giraffe.

g. Dennis is a walking dictionary.

h. I slept like a baby last night.

2. The sentences below are all literal. Rewrite them using **literary devices**. Follow the example.

a. My train ticket was very expensive.

My train ticket cost a hundred billion dollars!

b. Cheetahs are very fast.

c. My grandfather is old.

d. I have a lot of homework tonight.

e. My sister is quite short.

Let's Find the Literary Devices

Refer to the reading passage, *Simon's New School*, to help you complete the following activities.

1. Find an example of **hyperbole** from the story and write it below.

2. Find an example of a **metaphor** from the story and write it below.

3. Find an example of a **simile** from the story and write it below.

4. What do you think it means to be 'lost in your thoughts'?

5. How does Simon feel about Hong Kong and his new school?

6. How do **literary devices** make a story more interesting?

7. Read the following **similes** and **metaphors** from the story. Visualize what they describe and sketch them in the space below.

"Her hair was a black waterfall and she paced around the class like a leopard ready to pounce"

"The dark clouds over Simon had moved away – things were looking much brighter"

Vocabulary Check

Match the pictures to the correct words.



waterfall

shoebox

pounce

sardines

Section Four

Let's Learn

Special World Schools

There are some unique schools around the world. Let's learn about them!

In China's rural Guizhou province, the community didn't have enough money to build a school. Instead, they cleared a cave near a village and held classes inside. Almost 200 students attended the Dongzhong Primary School until it closed in 2007.



The floating school of Makoko is in a coastal area of Nigeria. There is not much space in the area due to the high population. So, volunteers built a big, floating school near a stilt village, which students travel to by boat.

In a mountainous region of Columbia, some students live at the top of a mountain, but their school is at the bottom of it and across a river. It would take two hours to travel there by land, so the adults decided this zip-line would be safer.



Fuji Yochien is a kindergarten in Japan. It is built in the shape of a large donut, around a circular playground. It has lots of windows and open space. It is also built around several large trees, which grow through the classrooms.

Let's Talk

Which of these schools would you most like to attend?

How are these schools different from your school?

Why were these special schools built like this?

Are there any special schools in Hong Kong?

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the letter next to the correct answers.

1. When do people have culture shocks?

- a. When starting a new school
- b. When in a new country or place
- c. On the plane to a different country
- d. When visiting India only

2. Which statement is correct?

- a. All students wear uniforms in every country.
- b. Uniforms are worn in Japan only.
- c. Students don't wear uniforms nowadays.
- d. Students wear uniforms in some countries.

3. What is strange about school in France?

- a. Lunchtime is like a lesson.
- b. Children must dress warmly.
- c. Students cook their own lunch.
- d. School days are very long.

4. Why might a special school be built?

- a. There is no money for an ordinary one.
- b. There is no space on the land.
- c. The area is difficult for building and traveling.
- d. All of the above

5. Which students are not wearing a uniform?



b.



c.



a.



d.

Written Response Questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. How does Jenny deal with her culture shock in the reading, *A Letter from India*?

2. How are schools different around the world?

3. In which countries would you most and least like to go to school? Explain.

Let's Spell

Listen carefully to the words and write them on the lines below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Let's Present

Imagine what your dream school would be like. Think about what subjects will be taught at this school, whether students will wear uniforms, and how the school will be built. You must also decide whether this will be a special school or not and say where it is found. Draw pictures and diagrams to show your ideas. Finally, present to your class.

Is there anything special or different about this school?

How and where is this school built? How do students travel to it?

What do students learn? Are there any special subjects?

Try This at Home!

Let's Match

Match the words to the definitions.

1. volunteers

By the sea

2. rural

People who agree to do work for free

3. coastal

The total amount of people in a place

4. population

In the countryside, not the city

Let's Check

Look at each picture and use it to write a metaphor or a simile.







Challenge Yourself!

Write a word from the reading, *Simon's New School*, that matches each definition. Then, find the words in the word search below.

Done with fear and worry

Long passages between rooms

Walked slowly to avoid being noticed

Done with interest in finding out more

A very tall building

Done without care or skill

N	I	Z	E	R	T	S	P	C	C	I	E	S
U	E	A	G	Y	S	P	E	C	R	E	P	T
R	W	R	F	G	V	Y	C	L	P	T	R	E
E	E	E	V	C	I	T	T	U	T	F	F	A
D	R	R	W	O	L	H	E	M	U	V	L	N
F	R	G	R	R	U	B	A	S	R	Z	V	S
X	F	R	E	R	A	S	I	I	E	S	G	P
Z	J	B	K	I	G	B	L	L	J	H	T	E
A	U	V	K	D	E	G	L	Y	C	H	R	C
C	U	R	I	O	U	S	L	Y	N	L	F	R
E	G	E	D	R	N	J	K	I	O	P	P	K
T	S	K	Y	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S	D
Y	E	G	J	U	N	G	D	E	S	P	E	C

READING & SPEAKING

LEVEL D UNIT 7

Progress Report

☐ **LESSON 1** _____

☐ **LESSON 2** _____

☐ **LESSON 3** _____

☐ **LESSONS 4-5** _____

Teacher Signature : _____