

# Unit 8



# New World

3

# 8

## The More, the Better

New Language 2.8



Guess the answer to the questions.  
Discuss with a partner.

### Animal Facts

**Which is more beautiful?** ►

Which is more beautiful, a male or female bird?  
Male birds are usually more beautiful than females.  
The males are often more colorful. For example,  
the male Golden Pheasant from Central China has  
longer and prettier feathers than the female, and it  
is much more attractive.





### ◀ Which one is stronger?

Which is stronger, an elephant or an ant? Elephants can carry tree trunks, and they move other heavy loads. But in proportion to its size, an ant is stronger than an elephant. Ants can pull 50 times their own weight. That's the same as a person pulling a truck with his or her teeth.



### Which can see better? ▶

Which can see better, eagles or bats? Eagles have better eyesight than most birds. Their eyes have the power of telescopes. From the sky, they can see a tiny worm in the grass. Bats have poor sight, but they use their ultrasonic echolocation to catch their food and find their way around in the dark.



## Which can jump better?



Red kangaroos are better jumpers than any other mammal. They can reach speeds over 56 kilometers an hour and jump 8 meters in a single leap. However, the flea is usually considered the best jumper in the world. Compare to body size, fleas can jump 220 times their own body length and 150 times their own body height. It's like a person jumping nearly 400 meters in distance while jumping over a 250-meter high building!



## Which is faster?

Which is faster, an ostrich or a horse? The ostrich is a large bird. It weighs up to 136 kilograms and is about 2.4 meters tall. Ostriches can't fly, but they can run very fast, almost 65 kilometers an hour. That's faster than a racehorse.

## Language Check

Answer *true* or *false*.

1. True Male birds are more attractive than females.
2. True Ants are stronger than elephants.
3. False Bats can see better than eagles.
4. False Red kangaroos can jump better than any other mammals.

## Pronunciation 2.9

Listen and repeat. Notice the rising intonation for yes-no questions and the falling intonation for information questions.

### Rising Intonation

Does a male bird have beautiful feathers?

Are fleas good jumpers?

### Falling Intonation

What do male birds look like?

How high can a flea jump?

## Practice 2.10

Ask and answer.

1. A: I think elephants are more intelligent than ostriches.  
B: I think so, too. / I don't agree.
2. A: Hippos can run faster than people.  
B: Really? I thought they were slower.  
A: No, it's true.

## Conversation 2.11



**Michelle:** So where's your hometown?

**William:** I'm from Singapore. Have you been there?

**Michelle:** No. I haven't. But I've been to Hong Kong.

**William:** Well, Hong Kong is bigger than Singapore, but Singapore is safer, cleaner, and cheaper, and the people are friendlier. It's one of the best cities to live in Asia. And where are you from?

**Michelle:** I'm from Orange, in the South of France.

**William:** Is it near Nice?

**Michelle:** Yes. But it's much smaller. It's a quiet little town in Provence. It has a famous ancient Roman theater in the center. And in the spring, the fields are full of beautiful flowers.

**William:** I need to go there some time. I love romantic places.



## About the Conversation

1. How does William compare Singapore to Hong Kong?
2. How does Michelle compare Orange to Nice?
3. Why does William want to visit Provence?
  1. Singapore is safer, cleaner, cheaper, and the people are friendlier than Hong Kong.
  2. It's much smaller.
  3. Because he loves romantic places.

## Listening 2.12

Listen and answer *true* or *false*.

Charles thinks:

1. True United is going to win.
2. False The Rovers have faster players.
3. True Armstrong is smarter than any Rover player.

Rachel thinks:

4. True The Rovers are going to win.
5. False The Rovers have a weaker defense.
6. True Bruno Rivera can't play, but he's cute.





# Grammar

## Comparatives

Maria is **taller** than Susan.

Susan is **thinner** than Maria.

Maria is **prettier** than Susan.

Susan is **more intelligent** than Maria.

Add *-er* to short adjectives.

cold—colder   long—longer   new—newer   rich—richer   small—smaller   tall—taller

Change *y* to *i* when adding *-er* to short adjectives that end in *y*.

dirty—dirtier   easy—easier   happy—happier   pretty—prettier   sunny—sunnier

Double the final consonant when adding *-er* to certain short adjectives that end in a consonant + vowel + consonant:

big—bigger, fat—fatter, hot—hotter, sad—sadder, thin—thinner

Add *more* before long adjectives.

beautiful—more beautiful

dangerous—more dangerous

important—more important

worried—more worried

**Note:** *Good* and *bad* have irregular comparative forms: **good—better, bad—worse.**

The comparative forms for *fast* and *hard*—**faster** and **harder**—are the same for adjectives and adverbs.

**A** Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the adjective.

1. Dolphins are more intelligent (intelligent) than whales.
2. Skydiving is more exciting (exciting) than kite surfing.
3. I think Rome is noisier (noisy) than Paris.
4. La Paz is higher (high) than Quito.
5. I think science is more difficult (difficult) than math.
6. Taking the subway is faster (fast) than taking the bus.
7. Museums are more interesting (interesting) than zoos.
8. In my opinion, chocolate cake is tastier (tasty) than apple pie.

**B** Make statements. Your partner says if he/she agrees or disagrees.

monkeys / smart / elephants

A: Monkeys are smarter than elephants.

B: I think so, too. **or** I don't think so. / I agree. **or** I don't agree.

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. New York / expensive / Tokyo   | 5. cats / clean / dogs                |
| 2. rock / popular / country music | 6. planes / safe / cars               |
| 3. soap operas / bad / movies     | 7. surfing / exciting / skateboarding |
| 4. history / easy / geography     | 8. shoes / comfortable / sneakers     |

*Answers will vary.*

**C** Compare the two cars. Make sentences with the adjectives in the box and your own ideas.

fast

economical

big

large

cheap

*Car B is more expensive than car A.*

**A**



**B**



Car B is faster than car A,

Car A is more economical than Car B,

Car B is bigger than car A,

Car B is larger than car A,

Car A is cheaper than car B.

**D** Compare yourself with your partner.

**Examples:** *I'm taller than my partner.* or *My partner is taller than me.*

Name of partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ *Answers will vary.*

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Grades: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports: \_\_\_\_\_

Talkative: \_\_\_\_\_

Hardworking: \_\_\_\_\_

Other ideas: \_\_\_\_\_



## Writing

Compare yourself to a family member or to your best friend.



Look at the pictures. What do you think the Reading is about?

# Historical Rivals

The cities of London and Paris are historical rivals. But today, the two are closer than ever. This is because the high-speed *Eurostar* train connects London to Paris in only two and a quarter hours. It takes less time to cross the Channel than to go from London to Newcastle in the north of England.

Nowadays, London is a bigger city and has a larger population than Paris. In fact, the population of Paris is getting smaller. Both cities work to ensure a better quality of life: they discourage the use of cars, and they try to make the city greener. Compared to Paris, London has more skyscrapers, and it seems more modern and dynamic. The City of Light is more conservative and maintains the traditional French way of life. The capital's many tiny bakeries still sell freshly-baked baguettes and croissants, and people still fill the famous sidewalk cafés.

Paris boasts of its cuisine and fashion. Paris is still considered more glamorous than London, and it is the center of the top designer brands. London has a more informal food culture with lots of ethnic restaurants and bars. Paris has nine three-star Michelin restaurants, the height of excellence. London has only one.

As for entertainment, young people say that London is livelier and has more options than Paris. The British writer Samuel Johnson said: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life." The Parisians say: "When a man is tired of London, he comes to Paris for a good meal."



## About the Reading

1. How are London and Paris closer than in the past?
2. Which city has a bigger population?
  1. This is because the high-speed Eurostar train connects London to Paris in only two and quarter hours.
  2. London has a bigger population.
  3. London has more modern buildings.
  4. Paris is still considered more glamorous than London, and it is the center of the top designer brands.
3. Which city has more modern buildings?
4. What is Paris still more famous for than London?

## Speaking

Discuss in a group.

1. Where would you prefer to live—London or Paris?
2. You can choose any city in the world. Where would you like to live?

## World Link



Find out about a city that you think has the best quality of life. Present your findings to the class.