

- › **Goal:** express an opinion about rivals
- › **Grammar:** comparatives and superlatives
- › **Vocabulary:** character adjectives

Reading and vocabulary

- 1 Look at the photos and answer the questions.
 - 1 What are the people famous for?
 - 2 Who are/were their biggest rivals?
 - 3 What else do you know about them?
- 2 Read the texts about great rivals. Close your books. Choose one of the texts. Work in pairs and take turns explaining who won and how.

Chess rivals

In July 1972, Bobby Fischer from the USA took on Boris Spassky from the USSR in the World Chess Championships. The Soviet players had won every championship since 1948 and the **determined**, **thoughtful** Spassky was the clear favourite. However Fischer was fiercely **competitive**, some even called him **stubborn** and **arrogant**, and his desire to win was huge. The battle started on 11th July and Fischer lost the first two games. Two-nil to Spassky – usually an unbeatable lead in chess. But suddenly, before the third game, the **unpredictable** Fischer lost his temper and threatened to quit unless the next game was played in a different room. Spassky, **reasonable** as always, agreed but the fuss unsettled him and he started to lose games. The longer the championship went on, the more **confident** Fischer became and the final score, two months later, was 12.5 points to Fischer and 8.5 points to Spassky. Fischer was the new king of chess!

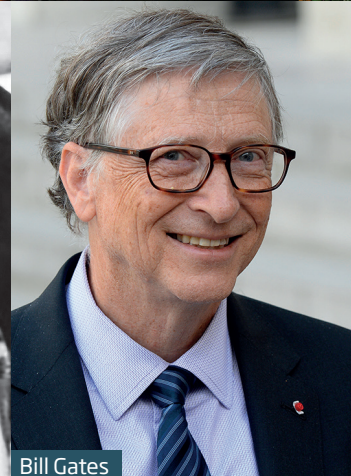
Basketball rivals

In September 1972, the USSR took on the USA in the Olympic basketball final. American teams had won every Olympic basketball final since 1936 and the Americans were the clear favourites. However they were also by far the youngest team to represent the USA, while the Soviet team were **tough** and determined. The rivalry between the two teams was intense.

The battle took place on 9th September. The **inexperienced** American team quickly went behind to the **bold** Soviets. However the American team fought back and with just three seconds remaining they scored and went ahead, 50-49. With so little time remaining, it looked like the match was over but suddenly the Soviet team did something **remarkable**: they threw the ball from one end of the court to the other and scored the winning goal. The USSR was the new king of basketball!



Bobby Fischer



Bill Gates




1972 US basketball team

- 3 a Work in pairs. Look at the words in bold in the text and guess their meanings.
- b Match the words in bold in the text with meanings 1–12.

Someone who:

- 1 always tries very hard to win **competitive**
- 2 refuses to change his/her mind
- 3 believes in his/her own abilities
- 4 does things you don't expect
- 5 has little knowledge or experience
- 6 behaves in an unpleasant way because they feel they are better than others
- 7 is fair and sensible
- 8 doesn't let others stop them achieving their goal
- 9 is strong and not afraid to fight
- 10 is quiet and serious
- 11 is not afraid of taking risks
- 12 surprises other people in a very positive way

- 4  3.4 Listen and rephrase the descriptions of people with the adjectives from Exercise 3.

Speaker: She's usually very fair and sensible.

You: She sounds quite reasonable.



Go to page 158 or your app for more vocabulary and practice.

Grammar

- 5 a** Read some opinions about the people and teams in Exercise 2. Who are they talking about: Spassky, Fischer, the Soviet team or the American team?
- 'I think he was as good as the other guy, but not as bold or arrogant.'
 - 'He played slightly more aggressively.'
 - 'The longer the match went on, the more remarkably they played.'
 - 'I think they were just a bit less experienced.'
 - 'He sounds like he was much more reasonable.'
 - 'To my mind, he was less of a gentleman.'
 - 'They were by far the youngest team ever to represent their country.'

- b** Complete the grammar box with the sentences from Exercise 5a.

Comparatives and superlatives

Use **adjective + -er** or **more/less + adjective (+ than)** to compare one thing to another.

When the difference is small, use *a bit/slightly*.

When the difference is big, use *much/so much/a lot/far/far too*.

*He was **much calmer** and **politer** than his rival.*

- _____
- _____

You can also use **as + adjective + as + noun** to say that two things are similar. This is often used with a negative.

*I guess he **wasn't as traditional as** his rival.*

- _____

Use **adjective + -est** or **the most/the least + adjective** to compare one thing to all the others in that group. When the difference is big, use *by far*.

*It's **by far the most famous** chess match ever.*

- _____

Use **more/less + adverb** to compare how two things are done.

*They started **more strongly than** the other team.*

- _____


Sometimes it is possible to compare two people or things using **more/less of a + noun**.

- _____

Notice how you can use **two comparative adjectives or adverbs** to say that one thing results in another.

*The **longer** the championship went on, the **more confident** Fischer became.*

- _____

- 6 a**  **3.5** Listen and notice how we emphasise big differences and small differences.

- It's not quite as good.
 - It's nowhere near as good.
- She's a bit more competitive than me.
 - She's so much more competitive than me.
- They're not quite as confident as last time.
 - They're not nearly as confident as last time.

- b** Which word in each sentence is emphasised when the speaker describes a big difference?

- c** Listen again and repeat.

- 7** Complete the text with the comparative or superlative form of the words in brackets.



In the early 1990s, Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan were competing to be ¹_____ (good) American figure skater. Neither skater was the clear favourite, but each was ²_____ (as / competitive) the other. Harding's life had been difficult. It had been ³_____ (much / hard) and ⁴_____ (far / stable) than Kerrigan's. Harding was ⁵_____ (far / tough) of the two and the ⁶_____, the _____ (old / get / tough / become). By contrast, Kerrigan was ⁷_____ (bit / thoughtful) and ⁸_____ (family person). She came from a ⁹_____ (far / stable) background and was considered to be ¹⁰_____ (elegant), and consequently she was ¹¹_____ (lot / popular) than Harding. The day before the 1994 US championships, a man attacked Kerrigan, she was unable to compete and Harding won the championships. But over time people became suspicious of Harding. She was later stripped of the title, although she said she had 'no prior knowledge' of the attack.

- 8** Compare yourself with other people you know.



Go to page 140 or your app for more information and practice.

Speaking

PREPARE

- 9 a** Work in pairs. Student A: Turn to page 18. Student B: Turn to page 19.
- b** Explain why your inventor was better than your partner's inventor.
- 10 a** Work as a class. Make a list of famous rivals, e.g. actors, sports stars or business people.
- b** Choose a set of rivals and make notes about them, e.g. their character, background, achievements.

SPEAK

- 11** Work in pairs. Take turns telling each other about the rivals you have chosen. What is your opinion about them?

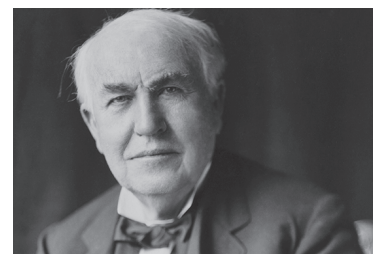
Develop
your
listening
page 88

Communication bank

Lesson 3B

9a Student A

- 1 Read about Thomas Edison. Prepare to tell Student B about him.
- 2 Listen to what Student B tells you about Nikola Tesla and make notes in the table.
- 3 Compare the two inventors. Use the text, the table and your notes. Then turn back to page 25, Exercise 9b.



Perhaps the most famous rivalry in the history of science is that between Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. Many people say that Thomas Edison was America's greatest inventor. Edison invented devices such as the movie camera and the light bulb. He was also an excellent businessman. When he died he was very rich and he held over 1,000 patents. Tesla, by contrast, died poor. He was more of a showman as he loved entertaining celebrities. Tesla was also more of a dreamer: he once said that he loved a pigeon who visited him every day.

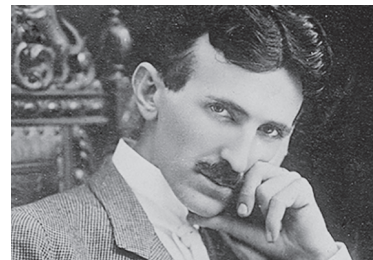
name	Edison	Tesla
born	1847	
education	self-educated	
famous inventions	light bulb, moving picture camera, voice recorder	
type of person	a businessman	
character	competitive, confident, arrogant, stubborn	
patents	1,093	
wealth	died a millionaire	

Communication bank

Lesson 3B

9a Student B

- 1 Read about Nikola Tesla. Prepare to tell Student A about him.
- 2 Listen to what Student A tells you about Thomas Edison and make notes in the table.
- 3 Compare the two inventors. Use the text, the table and your notes. Then turn back to page 25, Exercise 9b.



Perhaps the most famous rivalry in the history of science is that between Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. Many people say that Tesla was ahead of his time because he was interested in things such as wireless communication, which only became popular later. Tesla invented devices such as the radio signal and the remote control, although his greatest impact was in electricity. He died poor because he was a better inventor than a businessman.

name	Tesla	Edison
born	1856	
education	highly-educated	
famous inventions	radio, remote control	
type of person	a showman, a genius	
character	bold, determined, thoughtful	
patents	300	
wealth	died poor	

3B Comparatives and superlatives

Form **comparative adjectives** by adding -er to one-syllable adjectives and *more/less* to adjectives of three or more syllables: *older, weaker, more/less interesting*.

Most adjectives with two syllables take *more/less*, but you can also use -er with two-syllable adjectives ending in -y or -ow, and with some others, e.g. *quiet, pleasant, clever: wealthier/more wealthy, narrower/more narrow, pleasanter/more pleasant*.

Introduce the thing/person being compared with *than*:

*Suraya's brother was **quieter than Suraya/her**.*

To make the comparison stronger, use adverbs/phrases such as *a bit, slightly* (for a small difference) and *much, a lot, far* (for a bigger difference) + *more/-er*:

*She was **a bit livelier, but certainly much more talkative than him**.*

Add emphasis to the comparison by repeating the comparative adjective:

*Things got **tougher and tougher** after the new CEO joined the company.*

Use two comparative adjectives with *the* to show that one thing leads to the other:

The longer we waited, the hungrier we got!

Form **superlative adjectives** by adding -est to one-syllable adjectives and *the most/the least* to adjectives of three or more syllables: *oldest, weakest, the most interesting, the least complicated*. Make the comparison stronger by using *by far* and weaker by using *one of the/ among the*:

*He's **by far the most successful player in his country and among the most successful in the world**.*

You can express (in)equality with (not) *as* + adjective + *as*:

*The sport **isn't as popular here as in the United States**.*

To compare **adverbs**, use *more/less* + adverb + *than*. You can modify them in the same way as adjectives:

*He plays **much more competitively than the rest of the team**.*

Some short adverbs are compared in the same way as adjectives, e.g. *fast, hard, late*:

*They run **faster** and play **harder** than anyone else.*

It is also possible to compare things using *more/less of a* + noun:

*It was **less of a battle than we'd expected**.*

PRACTICE

3B

1 Complete the sentences. Put the words in brackets in the correct order.

- My twin sister was always _____. (confident / me / more / a lot / than)
- At school, she was _____. (most / in the class / girl / popular / by far / the)
- It seemed that _____ (more / popular / the) she got, _____. (became / the / I / confident / less).
- In class, she always worked _____. (me / quickly / more / a lot / than).
- But she was never _____ (hardworking / me / as / as), and my results were always _____ (than / better / hers / far).
- It was _____ (a / of / less / rivalry) and _____ (constant / more / a / of / battle).

2 Choose the correct alternatives. In one case, both alternatives are correct.

Ask anyone about great sporting rivalries and they will mention Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, surely ¹ *among/ of* the most enduring rivalries of all time. They have been at the top of the game of tennis since 2004, and they have met on court 38 times, with Nadal winning 23 of those matches. Federer has been ² *slightly/far* more successful in the Grand Slams, holding the all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles, while Nadal has 17, trailing a little behind. In their early meetings, from 2004 to 2006, Nadal seemed the ³ *hungrier/more hungry* of the two for success, winning six out of nine matches. In their peak years at the top of tennis, they were ⁴ *as competitive as/ competitive like* each other, sharing the titles. During this time, from 2007 to 2013, they both seemed to get ⁵ *more and more better/better and better*, dominating the tennis scene. Over the years their friendship has grown, and the ⁶ *more great/greater* the rivalry, the more respectful they are of each other.

3B Adjective suffixes *-(ic)al*, *-ic*, *-ive*, *-ous* and *-y*

1 Complete the table with adjectives ending in *-(ic)al*, *-ic*, *-ive*, *-ous* and *-y*.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
ambition		
competition	compete	
creation	create	
curiosity		
energy		
enthusiasm	enthuse	
generosity		
greed		
history		
imagination	imagine	
music		
romance		
trend		
wealth		

2 Choose the correct alternatives.

A It's wonderful teaching young children. They're so ¹ *curious/greedy* about the world around them – they want to know everything – and they're so ² *ambitious/enthusiastic* about all the activities we get them to do; everything's fun. And they have such incredible minds – they're so ³ *creative/energetic* in their play and the stories they write.

B My sister has met the most amazing man. He's very ¹ *competitive/wealthy* and takes her to very expensive restaurants; he's really ² *imaginative/romantic* and gives her flowers every time they meet. He's also such a ³ *generous/trendy* person – he bought me and my parents birthday presents recently and he hardly knows us.

C We're not sure yet about the new office manager at work. She gets things done – she's very ¹ *energetic/generous* and is always on the go, and she's always coming up with ² *curious/imaginative* solutions to tricky problems. But she hates anyone else having good ideas; she's really ³ *competitive/greedy* and wants to show she's the best; she's also very ⁴ *ambitious/creative* and is obviously aiming to go higher in the company, so she may not be around for long.

3 Work in pairs and take turns describing yourself. Use three of the adjectives from Exercise 1. Explain your choices.

Vocabulary

Character adjectives

1 Read the descriptions. What adjective describes each person? The first letter is given to help you.

- Steve thinks he's better than everyone and can be quite unpleasant.
a.....
- The new receptionist is really sweet but she clearly lacks knowledge and skills.
i.....
- Alan always thinks about how he can make people happy. t.....
- My nephew's achieved so much in his life. He's a really surprising guy. r.....
- The boss can be very strong.
t.....
- You never know what my friend Matt will do next. u.....
- Rachel feels sure that her job interview will go well. c.....
- I want to go to New Zealand and I won't let anything stop me! d.....

2 Complete the conversations with the adjectives in the box.

arrogant bold competitive
determined reasonable remarkable
stubborn thoughtful

- A: I hear what you're saying but I won't change my mind.
B: Oh, don't be so!
- A: I just walked straight into my boss's office and asked for more money.
B: Wow, that was of you.
- A: You don't need to be so all the time.
B: You know me. I hate to lose.
- A: I got you a coffee from the shop. Milk and one sugar, right?
B: Yes, that's really, thanks.
- A: Jenny wants the report by midday.
B: What? That's crazy – she's usually very
- A: I'm to get fit this year.
B: Well, if you put your mind to it, then you can do it.
- A: Eva got an A in all her subjects this year.
B: I'm not surprised. She's a woman.
- A: If anyone should get the job, it's me.
B: Don't be so! The others are good workers, too.

Grammar

Comparatives and superlatives

3 Choose the correct alternatives.

- Russia is *by far/a lot* bigger than China.
- The longer we waited, the *more/much* impatient we became.
- This film adaptation isn't as good *as/than* the original.
- This is *by far/far more* the best steak I've ever eaten.
- It's not *as warm/warmer* today as it was yesterday.
- You're not *less/lesser* of a man if you cry at films!
- This mobile phone is the *least/less* reliable one I've ever had.
- We have to walk *much more/so much* quickly or we'll be late.

4 Complete the text with one word in each gap.

The cola wars

Coca Cola and Pepsi are by ¹..... the most well-known business rivals when it comes to soft drinks. Coca Cola was invented in 1886, 12 years earlier ²..... Pepsi. It was already selling millions of litres a year when Pepsi appeared. Pepsi wanted a share of that market and the companies have been ³..... best of rivals ever since. Their rivalry became much ⁴..... famous in the 1970s when Pepsi introduced the Pepsi Challenge. They asked customers to blind taste Coke and Pepsi and say which they preferred. Pepsi say that over 50 percent of people chose their drink. Whether that was ⁵..... little over 50 percent or ⁶..... more than 50 percent, we can't be sure. However, this started an era of competition known as the *cola wars*. ⁷..... harder Coca Cola promoted their company, the greater the effort Pepsi made and vice versa. It's still clear today that they're as competitive ⁸..... each other when it comes to selling their products and this is unlikely to change any time soon.



5 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first.

- You're better at languages than me.
I'm not at languages you.
- That exercise wasn't as easy as I'd expected.
That exercise difficult I'd expected.
- I've never had such a fast car.
This is by car I've ever had.
- The blue shirt is nicer than the green one.
The green shirt the blue one.
- I feel much more relaxed today.
I feel a stressed yesterday.
- When I feel more tired, I sleep less.
..... I feel, I sleep.
- You don't look awake enough to work today.
You look far to work today.
- The Bears played much worse than The Tigers and still won!
The Bears didn't The Tigers and still won!

