

# 6

## Tell me! What's it like?

What ... like? • Comparatives and superlatives • Synonyms and antonyms • Directions

### STARTER



- 1 What is the capital city of your country? What is the population? Is it an old or modern city?
- 2 Write down two things that you like about your capital and two things that you don't like. Tell the class.

*I like travelling on the buses in London but I don't like the Underground, it's too expensive.*

### WORLD TRAVEL

What's it like?

- 1 Read about Todd Bridges.
- 2 What do you know about Melbourne, Dubai, and Paris? Where are they?
- 3 **T 6.1** Listen to what Todd says about them. Write the adjectives he uses for each city. Compare with a partner.

#### GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Match the questions and answers.

Do you like Paris?

It's beautiful.

What's Paris like?

Yes, I do.

It's got lots of old buildings.

No, I don't.

- 2 Which question in 1 means: *Tell me about Paris.*

▶▶ Grammar Reference 6.1 p135

- 4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about the places Todd visited.

*What's Melbourne like?*

*It's ...*

*It's got ...*

*There are ...*



### TODD BRIDGES



**Todd Bridges** is only seventeen years old but he is already a successful tennis player. He comes from Chicago, USA, but he travels all over the world playing tennis. Last year he played in tennis championships in Melbourne, Dubai, and Paris.



## PRACTICE

### What's Chicago like?

- 1 You are asking Todd about Chicago. Complete the questions with *is* or *are* and the correct words from the box.



the restaurants   the people   the night-life   the buildings

- 1 **You** What *'s the weather* like?  
**Todd** Well, Chicago's called 'the windy city' and it really can be windy!
  - 2 **You** What \_\_\_\_\_ like?  
**Todd** They're very interesting. You meet people from all over the world.
  - 3 **You** What \_\_\_\_\_ like?  
**Todd** A lot of them are very, very tall. The Sears Tower is 110 storeys high.
  - 4 **You** What \_\_\_\_\_ like?  
**Todd** They're very good. You can find food from every country in the world.
  - 5 **You** What \_\_\_\_\_ like?  
**Todd** Oh, it's wonderful. There's lots to do in Chicago.
- 2 **T 6.2** Listen and check. Practise with a partner.
- 3 Ask and answer the same questions about the town or city you are in now.

## BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST!

### Comparatives and superlatives

- 1 Read the second part of the conversation with Todd. He compares the places he visited last year. Can you complete any of the sentences?



“ Melbourne was interesting, but for me, Paris was           interesting           Melbourne, and in some ways Dubai was the           interesting           of all because it was so different           any           other place I know. It was also the           ,           driest, and           modern          . It was hot in Melbourne but not           hot           in Dubai. Dubai was           hotter          ! Melbourne is           older           Dubai but not           old           Paris. Paris was           oldest           city I visited, but it has some great modern buildings, too. It was the           romantic           place. I loved it. ”



DUBAI



PARIS

**T 6.3** Listen and check.



## GRAMMAR SPOT

1 What are the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives? What are the rules?

- |         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| a small | c busy      |
| cold    | noisy       |
| near    | dry         |
| b big   | d beautiful |
| hot     | interesting |
| wet     | exciting    |

2 These adjectives are irregular. What are the comparative and superlative forms?

far good bad

3 Adjectives also combine with *as ... as*.  
Melbourne isn't as cosmopolitan as Chicago.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 6.2 p135

2 **T 6.4** Listen and repeat the sentences.

/hɒtə ðən/

This summer's hotter than last.

/əz hɒt əz/

It wasn't as hot as this last year.

3 Practise these sentences with a partner.

It isn't as cold today as it was yesterday.

But it's colder than it was last week.

I'm not as tall as you, but I'm taller than Anna.

This car's more expensive than John's.

But it isn't as expensive as Anna's.

**T 6.5** Listen and check.

4 Learn this poem by heart.

Good, better, best.

Never, never rest

'til your good is better,

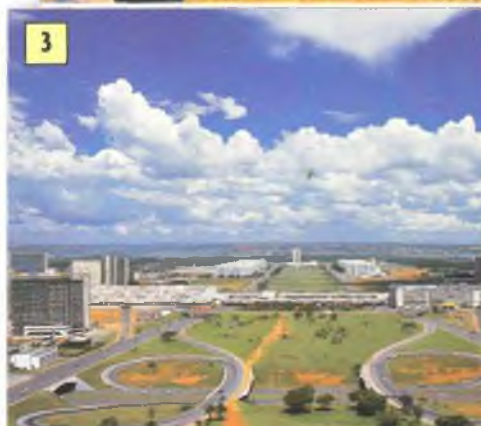
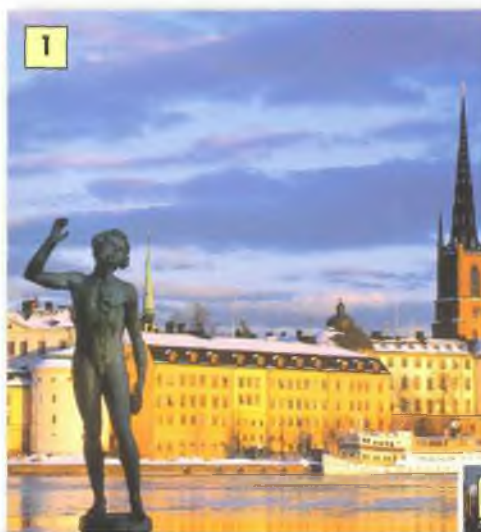
And your better best.

## PRACTICE

### Comparing four capital cities

1 Match the cities and the photographs. Of which countries are these the capital cities?

Paris Beijing Stockholm Brasilia



2 Work with a partner. Your teacher will give you some information.

**Student A** Read about Paris and Beijing.

**Student B** Read about Stockholm and Brasilia.

Ask and answer these questions to find out about the other two cities.

- How old is it?
- How big is it?
- How many people live there?
- How hot/cold does it get?
- How wet is it?
- How far is it from the sea?

How old is it?

It's very old. It was founded in ...

3 Now compare the four cities.

Beijing is bigger than Brasilia.

Paris is the oldest.

4 Compare some cities in your country.

## Conversations

5 Work with a partner and continue these conversations.

- 1 A I moved to a new flat last week.  
B Oh, really? What's it like?  
A Well, it's bigger than my old one but it isn't as modern, and ...
- 2 A I hear Sandy and Al broke up.  
B Yeah. Sandy's got a new boyfriend.  
A Oh, really? What's he like?  
B Well, he's \_\_\_\_\_ than Al, and ...
- 3 A We have a new teacher.  
B Oh, really? What's she like?  
A Well, I think she's the \_\_\_\_\_ teacher we've ever had ...
- 4 A Is that your new car?  
B Well, it's second-hand, but it's new to me.  
A What's it like?  
B Well, it's \_\_\_\_\_ than my old car ...

Act out a conversation to the class. Whose is the longest?

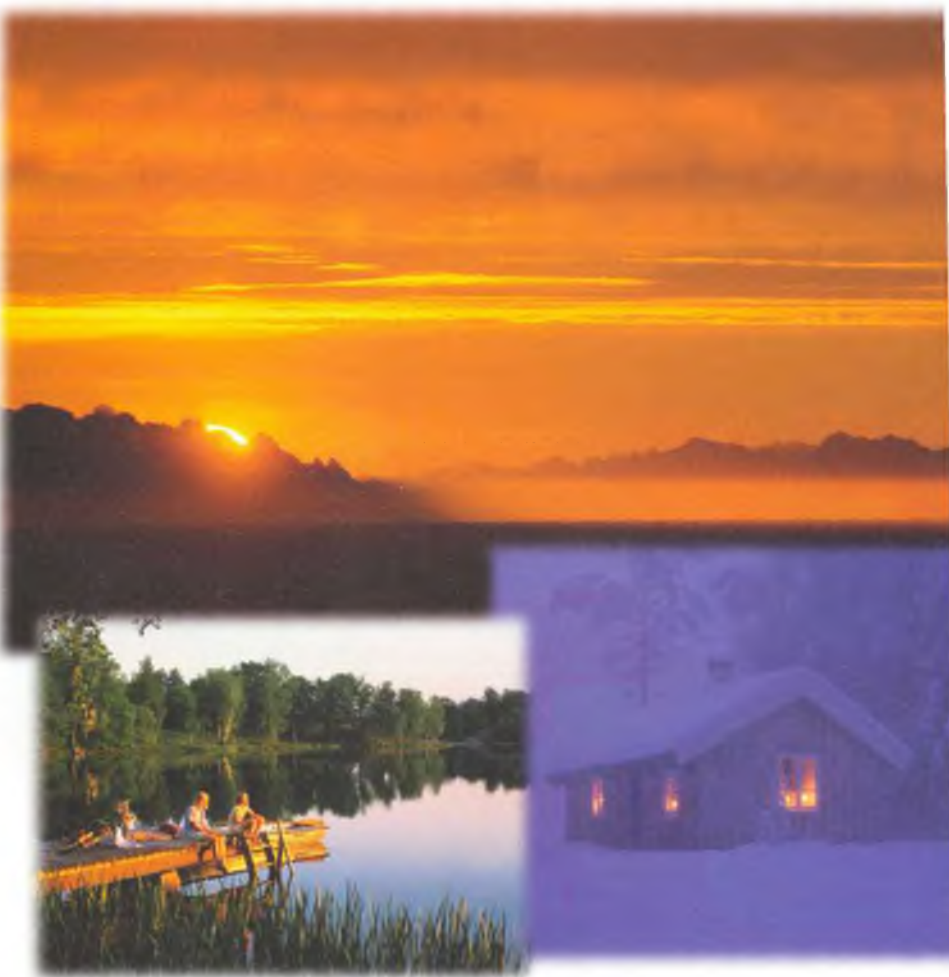
**T 5.6** Listen and compare. Repeat the last lines.

## Check it

- 6 Correct these sentences.
- 1 He's more older than he looks.
  - 2 Jessica's as tall than her mother.
  - 3 'What does New York like?' 'It's really exciting!'
  - 4 Trains in London are more crowded that in Paris.
  - 5 Oxford is one of oldest universities in Europe.
  - 6 He isn't as intelligent than his sister.
  - 7 This is more hard than I expected.
  - 8 Who is the most rich man in the world?
  - 9 Everything is more cheap in my country.
  - 10 Rome was hotter that I expected.

## LISTENING AND SPEAKING

### Living in another country



- 1 What do you know about Sweden? What is the country like? What are the people like? Discuss these statements about Sweden. Do you think they are true (✓) or false (X)?

- 1 In winter there is only one hour of daylight.
- 2 Swedish people look forward to winter.
- 3 The houses are cold.
- 4 The houses are much better insulated than in Britain.
- 5 In parts of Sweden from May to July the sun never sets.
- 6 Londoners work longer hours than the Swedes.
- 7 Swedes always start work early in the morning.
- 8 Country cottages in Sweden are usually very luxurious.
- 9 All houses have a sauna.
- 10 The whole family like to sit in the sauna together.

- 2 **T 6.7** You are going to listen to Jane Bland talking to her friend, Fran, about her life in Sweden. Jane comes from London, but three years ago she married a Swede and went to live and work in Stockholm. Listen and check your answers to exercise 1.

- 3 Compare your country with what you learned about Sweden.  
*In my country it gets dark at five o'clock in winter, and it's much warmer.*



## READING AND SPEAKING

### A tale of two millionaires

- 1 Who are the richest people in your country? Where does their money come from? How do they spend their money?
- 2 Match the verbs and nouns. Many of them are to do with money.

Verbs	Nouns
buy	a bank account
spoil	poverty
wear	a thief
open	a will
live in	stocks and shares
inherit	a child
make	a leg
arrest	ragged clothes
invest	a lot of money from someone
amputate	a lot of money in something

- 3 You are going to read about two millionaires. One was very mean, the other very generous. First read *quickly* about Milton Petrie. Can you remember any examples of his kindness?
- 4 Now read *quickly* about Hetty Green. Can you remember any examples of her meanness?
- 5 Read one text more carefully, then answer the questions with a partner who read the other text.
  - 1 When were Milton and Hetty born?
  - 2 What were their parents like?
  - 3 How did Milton and Hetty become so wealthy?
  - 4 Who wore ragged clothes?
  - 5 What was the meanest thing Hetty did?
  - 6 Why did Milton like making a lot of money?
  - 7 Who did they marry?
  - 8 When did they die? How old were they?
  - 9 Who left the most money? Who did they leave it to?

### What do you think?

Discuss these questions in small groups.

- How were Milton and Hetty's childhoods different?
- How did their childhoods affect them later?
- Why was Milton especially generous to policemen?
- Why did Hetty's daughter build a hospital?
- What was the kindest thing Milton did?
- Who had the happier life? Milton or Hetty?

# A tale of two millionaires

Some millionaire stories

## Milton Petrie

### The Most Generous Man in the World

Every morning, billionaire Milton Petrie walked from his New York apartment and bought a newspaper from the ragged old man on the street corner. One morning the man wasn't there. Petrie learned that he was very ill in the city hospital. Immediately he paid his hospital bill and later, when the man died, paid for his funeral.



Milton with the model he helped



# f two millionaires

spend it and some save it. Elizabeth Wilson reports on one of each.



The old man was just one of many people that Milton Petrie helped with his money. Whenever he read about personal disasters in his newspaper Petrie sent generous cheques, especially to the families of policemen or firemen injured at work. He also sent cheques to a mother who lost five children in a fire, and a beautiful model, whose face was cut in a knife attack. It cost him millions of dollars, but he still had millions left. He said that he was lucky in business and he wanted to help those less fortunate than himself. 'The nice thing is, the harder I work, the more money I make, and the more people I can help.'

Milton Petrie died in 1994, when he was 92. His will was 120 pages long because he left \$150 million to 383 people. His widow, Carroll, his fourth and last wife, said his generosity was a result of the poverty of his early years. His family were poor but kind-hearted. His father was a Russian immigrant who became a policeman, but he never arrested anyone, he was too kind. He couldn't even give a parking ticket.

## Hetty Green

**The Richest, Meanest Woman in the World**

**H**enrietta (Hetty) Green was a very spoilt, only child. She was born in Massachusetts, USA, in 1835. Her father was a millionaire businessman. Her mother was often ill, and so from the age of two her father took her with him to work and taught her about stocks and shares. At the age of six she started reading the daily financial newspapers and she opened her own bank account.

Her father died when she was 21 and she inherited \$7.5 million. She went to New York and invested on Wall Street. Hetty saved every penny, eating in the cheapest restaurants for 15 cents. She became one of the richest and most hated women in the world. She was called 'The Witch of Wall Street'. At 33 she married Edward Green, a multi-millionaire, and had two children, Ned and Sylvia.

Hetty's meanness was legendary. She always argued about prices in shops. She walked to the local grocery store to buy broken cookies (biscuits) which were much cheaper, and to get a free bone for her much-loved dog, Dewey. Once she lost a two-cent stamp and spent the night looking for it. She never bought clothes and always wore the same long, ragged black skirt. Worst of all, when her son Ned fell and injured his knee, she refused to pay for a doctor and spent hours looking for free medical help. In the end Ned's leg was amputated.

When she died in 1916 she left her children \$100 million (worth \$9.3 billion today). Her daughter built a hospital with her money.





# VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

## Synonyms

- 1 We often use synonyms in conversation because we don't want to repeat words.



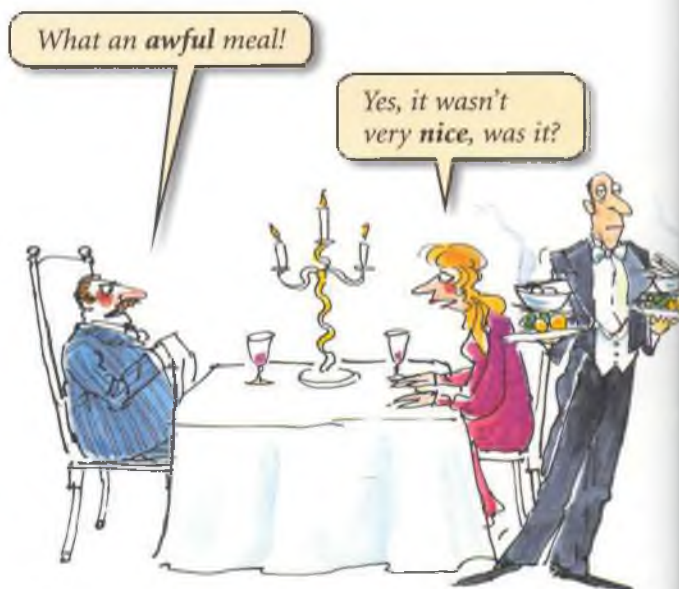
Complete the conversations, using an adjective of similar meaning from the box.

fed up   generous   brilliant   messy   modern   wealthy

- 1 'Mary's family is very rich.'  
'Well, I knew her uncle was very \_\_\_\_\_.'
  - 2 'Look at all these new buildings.'  
'Yes. Paris is much more \_\_\_\_\_ than I expected.'
  - 3 'Wasn't that film wonderful?'  
'Yes, it was \_\_\_\_\_.'
  - 4 'George doesn't earn much money, but he's so kind.'  
'He is, isn't he? He's one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ people I know.'
  - 5 'Ann's bedroom's really untidy again!'  
'Is it? I told her it was \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday, and she promised to clean it.'
  - 6 'I'm bored with this lesson!'  
'I know, I'm really \_\_\_\_\_ with it, too!'
- 2 **T 6.8** Listen and check. Listen again, paying particular attention to the stress and intonation. Practise the conversations with a partner.

## Antonyms

- 3 We can also use antonyms in conversation to avoid repeating words.



Match the following adjectives with their *two* opposites in exercise 1.

interested	<u>bored</u>	<u>fed up</u>
horrible	_____	_____
mean	_____	_____
old	_____	_____
poor	_____	_____
tidy	_____	_____

- 4 Sometimes it is more polite to use *not very* and an opposite adjective.

Tom's so short.

Well, he's **not very tall**.

He always wears such dirty clothes.

They certainly **aren't very clean**.

Reply to these sentences. Be more polite.

- 1 London's such an expensive city.
  - 2 Paul and Sue are so mean.
  - 3 Their house is always so messy.
  - 4 Their children are so noisy.
  - 5 John looks so miserable.
  - 6 His sister's so stupid.
- 5 **T 6.9** Listen and check. Pay particular attention to the stress and intonation. Practise the conversations with your partner.



# EVERYDAY ENGLISH

## Directions

1 Look at the map of Chesswood and find these things:

- a farm • a wood • a pond • a path • a hill • a river • a bridge • a gate



2 Read these descriptions and add the places to the map.

- 1 The hotel is **opposite** the car park.
- 2 The bank is **on the corner of** Lower Road and Hill Road. It is **next to** the baker's.
- 3 The supermarket is **between** the chemist's and the greengrocer's.
- 4 There is a bus stop **in front of** the flower shop in Station Road.
- 5 There are two pubs. The Red Lion is in Station Road, **opposite** the flower shop **near** the railway bridge, and the Old Shepherd is in Church Street, **behind** the school.

3 Ask and answer questions about the places on the map. Use the prepositions from exercise 2.

Where's the library?

It's on the corner of Station Road and Green Street, opposite the flower shop.

4 Complete the directions from Chesswood farm to the church with the prepositions in the box. Look at the map to help you.

up down over past through out of (x2) in(to) across

You go \_\_\_\_\_ the path, \_\_\_\_\_ the pond, \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge, and \_\_\_\_\_ the gate. Then you go \_\_\_\_\_ the road and take the path \_\_\_\_\_ the wood. When you come \_\_\_\_\_ the wood you walk \_\_\_\_\_ the path and \_\_\_\_\_ the church. It takes five minutes.

**T 6.10** Listen and check.

5 Give your partner directions to get to your house from your school.