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.

	It's beautiful.
Do you like Paris?	Yes, I do.
What's Paris like?	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 ...

There are ...

It's got ...

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

"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, cold, near

b big, hot, wet

c busy, noisy, dry

d beautiful, interesting, 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.

/hɔtə ðən/
This summer's hotter than last.

/əz hɔt 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 6.6 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 (✗)?

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.