



LEVEL 1
LESSON 31
TAKE ME OUT TO
THE BALL GAME

Topics Making comparisons Asking for and giving advice	Prepare Before Class A group of classroom objects of various sizes or qualities for Comparative Activity 2
Learning Strategy Visualize	Goals Grammar: Comparatives: faster, earlier Speaking: Using comparative and superlative adjectives Pronunciation: Pronouncing reduced “than” in comparative sentences

Day 1

Introduce the Lesson Topic

Tell students, “Today we will learn a little about the game of baseball. We will also learn how to compare two or more things.”

Ask students, “What are the popular sports in your country?” Give students a chance to respond. Say, “Do you know what sports are popular in the United States?” Let students make suggestions and write the names of the sports on the board. Circle the name baseball if students have suggested it.

Say, “Can you compare the game of football (soccer) to the game of baseball?” Give students a chance to respond in their native language or English. Write their answers on the board in English, and circle the comparative words that they used.

Explain, “In this lesson we will learn more about these words. They let us compare two things in English.”

Teach Key Words

Have students listen to the Speaking Practice video and say the new words for this lesson or repeat them after you.

Present the Conversation

Tell students that the video will show Anna trying to get to a baseball game. The question is: what is the fastest way for her to get there? Play the video or ask a few students to read the conversation.

Tell students to respond when there are pauses in the video.

Main Video Script – Lesson 31

1. Listen:

Don't take the bus. A taxi is faster than a bus.

Speak:

Don't take the bus. A taxi is ____ a bus.
(faster than)

2. Listen:

You should go a lot earlier than 7 o'clock.

Speak:

You should go a lot ____ 7 o'clock.
(earlier than)

Day 2

Pronunciation Practice

The Pronunciation Practice video teaches how to pronounce the reduced “than” in comparative sentences.

Pronunciation Practice Video Script – Lesson 31

1. When English speakers use comparative adjectives, they sometimes do not pronounce the word “than” clearly.

Ashley says, “In D.C. traffic, sometimes a bicycle is faster than a car.”

So, you may hear someone say,
“The Metro is faster than a taxi.”

Or, you may hear, “The Metro is faster 'ən a taxi.”

2. Dictionaries and language experts write this reduced vowel sound with a character called the schwa. It looks like this: ə

American English speakers often pronounce vowels that have little stress, or emphasis using the schwa sound.

Now, you try it. Compare a bus to a bicycle. Use “bigger” and the reduced form of “than.”

A bus is ____ a bicycle. (bigger 'ən)

Speaking Practice

After the key words, the video teaches about using comparative and superlative adjectives.

Speaking Practice Script – Lesson 31

1. To compare things in English, we use a special kind of adjective. To compare two or more things, use a comparative adjective.

In this lesson, Ashley says, “A bicycle is faster than a taxi.” Later, Anna says, “Being early is better than being late.”

2. Now, you try it. Compare two ways to get to Nationals Park.

Which way is faster, Metro or bus? I want to arrive earlier this time.

The metro is _____ than a bus. (faster)

You will arrive _____. (earlier)

3. Superlative Adjectives

Superlative adjectives describe one thing as having more of a quality than all of the other things in the group.

The word “the” appears before these adjectives and they end in -est or -st.

4. In last week’s lesson we heard Pete say, “You came to the right place. They have the freshest seafood in town.”

Pete uses a superlative adjective because there are many places to buy seafood. He thinks this market has the freshest seafood.

5. Listen to Pete as he uses a superlative adjective to describe the crabs:
“The crabs here are delicious! They are the best because they come from the nearby Chesapeake Bay.”

In this lesson, Anna says,
“The Metro was a lot faster than a bus, taxi, or bike.

For the adjective “fast,” the superlative is “fastest.”

6. Now you try it. Compare four ways to get to Nationals Park.

Listen:

What is the best way to get to Nationals Park? Metro, bus, taxi, or bike?

Speak:

The Metro is _____ way to get to Nationals Park. (the fastest)

Learning Strategy

Say, “Today’s learning strategy is visualize. Visualizing means creating a picture in your mind. In this week’s video, for example, Anna visualizes playing a baseball game. In the conversation, this happens after she says, “I can see it now.” She imagines playing the game. Jonathan listens and makes an image in his own mind. He understands that Anna loves baseball.”

Continue, “You can use this strategy when learning or using a new language. We can visualize to help us understand or remember what we are learning. Let’s try doing this now.”

Ask students to think about one of their funniest or happiest memories. Tell them they will share this story with two other students.

Put students into groups of three. Ask each student to share their memory with their group. After each student shares their memory, the other two students tell that person how they visualized the story in their mind. For example, if a student shares a story about a pet, the other two students should describe how they imagined the pet to look and other details from the story.

Comparative Activity 1

Give each student a copy of the Activity Sheet from the end of this lesson. Explain, “First, let’s play a baseball game.” Give students time to complete this part of the pair practice.

When the students have finished, bring their attention to the second activity on the sheet. This activity uses ‘baseball cards’ to give students practice with comparative adjectives. Students take turns making statements about the women players based on the numbers on their cards.

Comparative Activity 2

Remind students of the scene in the video when Anna says, ‘I can see it now.’ Say, “What happened in the video when Anna thought about playing a baseball game? She was making an image in her mind. You can do that, too, to learn new words in English.”

For this activity, your students will play a game of baseball in the classroom. Put the students into two teams.

Tell one team to stand at the front and the other team stand to one side. Mark home plate and three bases by putting a book or an object on at four points of the classroom.

Tell the team at the back, “Your job is to name two or three things in this classroom to compare. You must listen to the other team make a sentence with a comparative or superlative adjective. That team gets a point if their adjective is correct. If the team misses three sentences the teams trade places.”

Keep score by marking points on the board for each team. Some comparisons that can be made of classroom objects include: books or notebooks, maps, posters, tables or desks, windows, doors and more. For example a student may compare the teacher’s desk and the students’ desks: “The teacher’s desk is bigger than the students’ desks.”

Day 4

Listening Quiz

Give each student a paper copy of the listening quiz. Play each question’s video and pause for students to answer. Ask students to choose the correct answer.

If not using the video, read the sentences below aloud.

1. Anna says, “Today, I am going to Nationals Park. It is home to Washington’s baseball team -- the Washington Nationals!” Jonathan says, “Hi Anna, where are you going?” Anna says, “I am taking a bus to a Nationals baseball game!”
2. Jonathan says, “Don’t take the bus, A taxi is faster than a bus.” Anna says, “Oh, good idea. You know - I love baseball.” Jonathan says, “That’s great.”
3. Ashley says, “Hi, Anna.” Anna says, “Hi Ashley.” Ashley says, “Where are you going?” Anna says, “I am going to see a Nationals baseball game.” Ashley says, “Do you have a ticket?” Anna says, “No, not yet.” Ashley says, “Anna, you should go a lot earlier than 7 o’clock.”
4. Ashley says, “A bicycle is faster than a taxi.” Anna says, “Oh Ashley. Ashley, Ashley, Ashley. A car is a faster than your bicycle.” Ashley says, “In D.C. traffic, sometimes a bicycle is faster than a car. And, right now there is a lot of traffic.”
5. Ashley says, “The Metro is faster than a taxi and a bicycle. You ought to take the Metro.”
6. Anna sees the sign at the ticket window. It says “sold out.” This means that there are no more tickets for the game. She says, “What? The tickets are sold out? Nooooo!”

Collect the papers or ask students to trade papers and check the answers together.

Writing

Discuss the key words that may be used for the topic. Write some of them on the board for students to use in their written work. Write the writing topic on the board:

Before buying something, do you compare it with similar products? Write about something that you needed to buy in order to do or make something.

Give students a few examples of needed things, such as an ingredient for making a dish, a piece of equipment for playing a sport, a piece of clothing for going to an event, or a material for building or making something.

Give an example: "I want to make mashed potatoes tonight. At the market they have red potatoes, purple, and white potatoes. They have some that are smaller than the others. Today I will buy the longest white potatoes in the market, because they are the best for making mashed potatoes."

Tell students to use comparative and superlative adjectives to write about three similar products and then tell which product they chose.

After giving students time to write, ask a few students to share their writing with the class

Conversation

- Anna: Hi, there, sports fans! Baseball is America's sport. Today, I am going to Nationals Park. It is home to Washington, D.C.'s baseball team -- the Washington Nationals!
- Anna: Hi, Jonathan!
- Jonathan: Hi, Anna! Where are you going?
- Anna: I am taking a bus to a Nationals baseball game!
- Jonathan: Don't take the bus. A taxi is faster than a bus.
- Anna: Oh, good idea. You know I love baseball.
- Jonathan: That's great. Have fun.
- Anna: In fact, I wanted to be a baseball player.
- Jonathan: Is this one of your memories? I'm really busy.
- Anna: This won't take long. I can see it now... I am at home plate. I wait for the pitch. The ball comes. I swing. It's a hit! I run to first base, second base, third base, then home plate. It's a home run! The crowd cheers! Woo hoo!
- Jonathan: You really love baseball. Have fun at the game, Anna.
- Anna: Thanks, Jonathan. Taxi!
- Ashley: Hi, Anna. Where are you going?
- Anna: Hi, Ashley. I am going to see a Nationals baseball game!
- Ashley: What time is the game?
- Anna: 7 o'clock.
- Ashley: Do you have a ticket?
- Anna: No, not yet.
- Ashley: Anna, you should go a lot earlier than 7 o'clock.
- Anna: That is why I'm taking a taxi. Taxi!
- Ashley: Anna, Anna, that's not a good idea. A bicycle is faster than a taxi.
- Anna: Oh, Ashley. Ashley, Ashley, Ashley. A car is faster than your bicycle.
- Ashley: In D.C. traffic sometimes a bicycle is faster than a car. And right now, there is a lot of traffic.
- Anna: Good point. But I don't have a bicycle.
- Ashley: Okay, Anna, you can use my bicycle.
- Anna: Thanks! I really want to learn how to ride one.
- Ashley: What do you mean, learn how to ride a bike? Oh, Anna! Anna, Anna!
- Ashley: You know, Anna, the Metro is faster than a taxi and a bicycle. You ought to take the Metro. It's that way.
- Anna: Good idea.
- Ashley: OK.
- Anna: See you later!

Ashley: Bye, Anna!

Anna: Bye!

Anna: The Metro was a lot faster than a bus, taxi or bike. And now I'm at Nationals Park! Look at all these fans! So many people like to watch baseball. There's the ticket window. What? The tickets are sold out? Nooooooo!Nooooooo! But I really want to watch a baseball game. Does anyone have an extra ticket?

Fan: Next time, you should buy your ticket online.

Anna: Thanks. Thanks a lot. It is good advice. Being early is better than being late. Until next time ...

Key Words

base - *n.* any one of the four places a runner must touch in order to score in baseball

baseball - *n.* a game played on a large field by two teams of nine players who try to score runs by hitting a small ball with a long rounded stick and then running to each of the four places a runner must touch in order to score without being put out

better - *adj.* more attractive, appealing, effective or useful

bicycle/bike - *n.* a 2-wheeled vehicle that a person rides by pushing on foot pedals

cheer(s) - *v.* to shout with joy, approval, or enthusiasm

crowd - *n.* a large group of people who are together in one place

earlier - *adv.* before the usual or expected time

extra - *adj.* more than is usual or necessary

fan(s) - *n.* a person who likes and admires someone, such as a famous person, or something, such as a sport or a sports team, in a very enthusiastic way

faster - *adv.* with great speed

hit - *v.* to cause a ball to move by hitting it forcefully with a bat in baseball;

hit - *n.* when a baseball player is able to successfully swing the bat and connect it with the ball

home plate - *n.* the base that a runner must touch in order to score in baseball

home run - *n.* a hit that allows the batter to go around all the bases and score a run in baseball

Nationals Park - *n.* a baseball park located in Washington, D.C. that is the home ballpark for the Washington Nationals baseball team

online - *n.* done over the Internet

pitch - *v.* to throw a ball to the player who is trying to hit the ball in baseball

sell out - *v.* to be bought until no more are available

swing - *v.* to move your arms while holding the long rounded stick that is used to hit the ball in baseball with a quick, curving motion

team - *n.* a group of people who compete in a sport or game against another group

than - *conj.* used to introduce the second or last of two or more things or people that are being compared — used with the comparative form of an adjective or adverb

ticket - *n.* a piece of paper that allows you to see a show, participate in an event, travel on a vehicle

window - *n.* an opening in a wall or door that usually contains a sheet of glass

Quiz - Level 1, Lesson 31 - Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Listen. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. What is Anna going to do?

- a. Visit a national park
- b. Play on a baseball team
- c. Watch a baseball game
- d. Learn a new sport

4. What does Ashley explain to Anna?

- a. Traffic is often unsafe in Washington, DC.
- b. A bicycle can sometimes be faster than a car.
- c. Taxis are usually busy because of traffic.
- d. She always rides her bicycle to baseball games.

2. What advice does Jonathan give Anna?

- a. Take a taxi to the game.
- b. A taxi cannot enter the park.
- c. Take a faster bus.
- d. The bus is not coming.

5. What advice does Ashley give Anna?

- a. The Metro is faster than a taxi but slower than a bicycle.
- b. Anna ought to take the Metro because it's the fastest way.
- c. The Metro is located near the baseball stadium.
- d. Anna should take Ashley to the baseball game.

3. What does Ashley say to Anna?

- a. Anna is always late for events.
- b. The ticket sales end at 7:00 pm.
- c. The stadium doors open at 7:00 pm.
- d. Anna must go to the game earlier.

6. Why is Anna sad when she arrives at Nationals Park?

- a. There are no tickets for the game.
- b. The game has already started.
- c. There is not a game tonight.
- d. Tickets are only available online.

GAME INSTRUCTIONS

One player is the "batter" and one player is the "pitcher."
 Example: P touches #5 and B touches #3
 Result: 5-3: Batter moves 2 bases.

BATTER

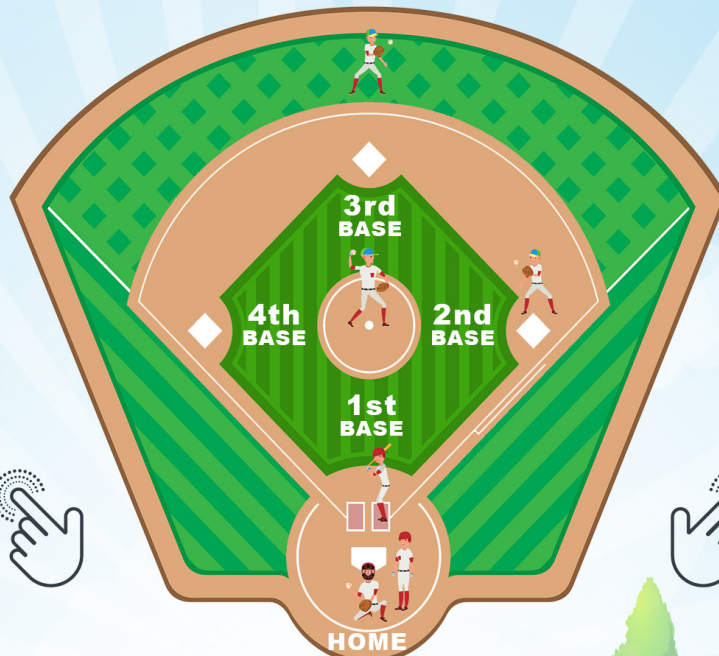
- Close your eyes and touch the number pad.
- Touched higher number = You got a hit!
Your number minus the Pitcher's number = your base.
Move marker to that base.
- Make a sentence comparing two or more things in the room. Go back to step 1.
- When you get around the bases back to home, wins!

PITCHER

- Close your eyes and touch the number pad.
Open your eyes and compare the number you are touching.
- Touched lower number = Batter is out!
- Your turn to bat - move your marker to home plate and go to step 1. Be the batter.

NUMBER PAD

1	2
3	1
1	2
2	1



NUMBER PAD

1	2
3	1
1	2
2	1

Who is a good pitcher?

Read about the baseball players below.
Ask your partner to compare the players.

Melissa is a good pitcher.
She is faster than Hinson



MELISSA COOMBES
 Hit / Game 9
 Pitch Speed (kph) 80
 Running (ft/sec) 25



LISA FERNANDEZ
 Hit / Game 8
 Pitch Speed (kph) 85
 Running (ft/sec) 30



DOTTIE HINSON
 Hit / Game 5
 Pitch Speed (kph) 75
 Running (ft/sec) 40

