

1 Look at the table and make comparative sentences about two towns: Trentor and Barfield.

	Trentor	Barfield
Population	120,000	48,000
Total annual rain (in mm)	515	515
Number of snowy days per year	12	26
Average temperature °C	17	25
Distance from the sea (in km)	158	230
Visitor rating	*****	***

1 population / big

*Trentor's population is bigger than Barfield's population.
Barfield's population isn't as big as Trentor's population.*

2 rainy

3 snowy

4 hot

5 far / from the sea

6 good

2 Complete the email with the comparative form of the adjectives in brackets.

Message
Options

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Hi Freda

Thanks for your email. We're now in our new house in Canada, and it's amazing! It's ¹_____ (modern) and ²_____ (spacious) than our old house in London, and the garden's much ³_____ (big) as well. The neighbours are ⁴_____ (friendly) too. My college is just ten minutes away by bus – ⁵_____ (close) than my old college in London. The teachers are generally great, but some of the coursework is much ⁶_____ (difficult) here.

I've got a part-time job after college – I'm working in a restaurant. The food is a bit ⁷_____ (expensive) than in England, but it's also ⁸_____ (tasty). Fish and chips are delicious!

There's only one real negative at the moment: the weather! The winter here is much ⁹_____ (cold) and ¹⁰_____ (snowy) than in England. I can't wait for spring!

Love
Meg

3 **SPEAKING** Work in groups. Choose two countries from the list below. How much do you know about:

- the climate?
- the cost of food?
- the average size of houses?

Share your ideas and compare the two countries.

Australia China India Japan Mexico
New Zealand South Africa Spain the UK the USA

4B Comparison

Aims: To review comparative forms.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

- You can use this exercise as an opportunity for students to practise numbers. Give each student a handout. Focus on the table and ask different students to read out the figures. Then go through the first example answer with the class. Point out that students need to write two sentences for each piece of information, apart from number 2.

KEY

- 2 Barfield is as rainy as Trentor.
Trentor is as rainy as Barfield.
- 3 Barfield is snowier than Trentor.
Trentor isn't as snowy as Barfield.
- 4 Barfield is hotter than Trentor.
Trentor isn't as hot as Barfield.
- 5 Barfield is further from the sea than Trentor.
Trentor isn't as far from the sea as Barfield.
- 6 Trentor is better than Barfield.
Barfield isn't as good as Trentor.

Exercise 2

- Ask students to read through the email first for gist. Ask some general comprehension questions if necessary: *Where is Meg?* (in Canada) *What is she describing?* (her new house) *What's her part-time job?* (She works in a restaurant.) Then give students a few minutes to complete the email with the correct comparative forms.
- Check answers by asking different students to read out a completed sentence in turn.

KEY

- 1 more modern
- 2 more spacious
- 3 bigger
- 4 friendlier
- 5 closer
- 6 more difficult
- 7 more expensive
- 8 tastier
- 9 colder
- 10 snowier

Exercise 3

- Students work in groups of three or four. Encourage them to use information they already know about the countries listed. If they have access to the internet or a library, they can also do some more research. You could give them some example sentences: *I think the UK is colder than Spain, and food is cheaper in Spain. I think houses are bigger in the UK than in Spain.* etc. Invite one or two groups to tell the rest of the class about the countries they chose and compared.