

Sample lesson plan for *Grammar for IELTS* Unit 11

Student preparation for this class: Have learners study the first part, the grammar, before the class, check the Grammar reference on page 119 and make notes on anything they need clarifying in class. (20–30 mins)

Teacher preparation: none

Practice exercises (45 mins)

FOCUS

These exercises train learners to use structures that show comparison: unequal comparisons, equal comparisons and making comparisons weaker/stronger.

Exercise 1

The sentences in this exercise contextualize the different comparative forms from the Grammar section and encourage learners to think carefully about their meanings. Have them discuss their answers in pairs before checking as a class.

Exercise 2

This exercise looks at how comparisons may be used in the Speaking exam. Have learners work in pairs to discuss the example. Get them to identify the way comparisons are made, particularly the way the speaker reinforces the most important point (that their city is richer than before) by repeating/reformulating what they have just said in reverse: *the city is not as poor as it was ten years ago*. Also highlight the way the speaker uses *Well ...* to give themselves thinking time. Point out that some people are now beginning to use *So ...* instead of *Well ...*. When they have written their responses, have learners use them to ask and answer in pairs.

Then play the audio while learners listen and follow the audio script. Highlight the way the speaker gains thinking time when asked a *Yes/No* question, beginning with a short answer and then elaborating.

Typical mistakes: Students often find it difficult to think of things to say when asked to talk about their own experiences. Highlight how making comparisons can be a helpful way of prompting their imagination; it is something we naturally do in our lives (to criticize things about our lives if we are feeling negative, or to praise when we are feeling positive).

Exercise 3

Direct attention to the Exam tip in the middle of page 48. Point out that this exercise focuses on how information can be restated using different comparison words, a device that is often used in the Listening exam. It also helps learners to distinguish between what is said during the conversation and what is finally agreed. Have learners listen and complete the exercise and then discuss their answers in pairs. Let them listen one more time to check their answers and then have them check with the audio script/answer key.

Exercise 4

Direct attention to the Grammar tip at the bottom of page 48. This highlights different ways of making comparisons and is a useful reference for the exercise that follows. Encourage learners to make use of a variety of ways of changing the sentences. Have class feedback and elicit answers from different learners to get a range of answers.

Typical mistakes: Many students restrict themselves to using simple comparison language in the Speaking exam. This exercise encourages them to be more adventurous in their responses. Point out that using a wider range of comparison structures will gain them extra marks.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY (15 MINS)

For additional practice in using comparatives, have learners discuss where they think is the best place in the world to live. While they discuss the topic, go round the class monitoring their discussions and making a note of interesting comparisons as well as any common mistakes.

Exam practice (30 mins)

This can be assigned for homework. Remind learners to look again at the Tip boxes, as well as the Exam tip box on page 49, before completing the Exam practice section.