



## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion

Answer these questions in pairs.



- Which is cheap?  
 traveling by bicycle  
 traveling by helicopter  
 traveling by airplane



- Which is comfortable?  
 traveling by bicycle  
 traveling by elephant  
 traveling by limousine



### B: General Knowledge

Read this sentence.

*The Prime Minister of Australia is John Howard.*

Here are some names of leaders of different countries. Put each name in the correct sentence. (The sentences are correct for 2006.)

*Hosni Mubarak, APJ Abdul Kalam, Junichiro Koizumi, George W. Bush, Tony Blair, Helen Clark, Romano Prodi, Thabo Mbeki, Hu Jintao*

- The British Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The American President is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Chinese President is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Italian Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Japanese Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The South African President is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The New Zealand Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Egyptian President is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Indian Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_.



## Reading Activities

### A: Comprehension

Read **Part One** of the article. Answer the questions.

- Who was surprised?
- Who got on the plane?
- Where was the airplane going?
- Was the flight cheap or expensive?

#### Part One:

**After Italian holiday, Blair flies home low-cost**

Monday June 5, ROME (Reuters) - Travelers on a **no-frills** flight were very surprised when the British Prime Minister Tony Blair **boarded** their flight to London.

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**no-frills** - cheap travel where the price is for the travel only and you pay separately for anything else like food or drinks  
**board** - get on a plane, ship etc.



## B: Fill The Gaps

Here are some words. Put them in the gaps in **Part Two** of the article.

### Part Two:

**Italian, British, Tuscany**

The 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister relaxed for a week in 2. \_\_\_\_\_. He also met the 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister Romano Prodi and the Pope.

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## C: Choose The Best Answer

Read the sentences below. Choose the best answers as you read **Part Three**.

- In which city did the prime minister get on the plane?
  - Rome
  - London
  - The article doesn't say.
- How did the prime minister travel to London?
  - on an expensive flight
  - on a cheap flight
  - The article doesn't say.
- On holidays in the past how did the prime minister travel?
  - on expensive flights
  - on cheap flights
  - The article doesn't say.
- How did the prime minister get home from the airport in London?
  - in a car.
  - in an airplane
  - The article doesn't say.

### Part Three:

After his holiday the prime minister flew from Rome on the no-frills flight with Ryanair.

At the airport in London Blair got into a limousine, the Daily Telegraph said.

In the past British newspapers showed the prime minister taking more expensive **state** flights for his holidays.

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**state** - government

## D: Sequencing

Read the article again. Put these events in the order that they happened. One is done for you as an example.

	Blair met the Pope.
	Blair got into a limousine at the airport in London.
1.	Blair went to Tuscany.
	He had a holiday in Tuscany.
	Blair flew from Rome to London.

## After Italian holiday, Blair flies home low-cost

Monday June 5, ROME (Reuters) - Travelers on a no-frills flight were very surprised when the British Prime Minister Tony Blair boarded their flight to London.

The British Prime Minister relaxed for a week in Tuscany. He also met the Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and the Pope.

After his holiday the prime minister flew from Rome on the no-frills flight with Ryanair. In the past British newspapers showed the prime minister taking more expensive state flights for his holidays.

At the airport in London Blair got into a limousine, the Daily Telegraph said.

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## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Language

Read this. **Ryanair is cheaper than other carriers.**

This sentence compares different things. The sentence compares the airline, Ryanair with other airlines.

Cheaper is an example of a *comparative adjective*. Short adjectives take **-er than...** *A limousine is faster than a bicycle.*

Long adjectives take **more than...** *This airline is more expensive than Ryanair.*

One-syllable adjectives (*cheap, fast*) take **-er**. Three-syllable adjectives (*expensive, comfortable*) take **more**.

Most two-syllable adjectives take **more** but some do not.

Spelling: Some consonants are doubled. *big* → *bigger*, *happy* → *happier*. Y changes to i. *busy* → *busier*

The e is not doubled *rare* → *rarer*. A few adjectives are irregular: *good* → *better*, *bad* → *worse*

Make each adjective in the brackets into a comparative adjective. These are all short adjectives.

1. A bicycle is  (*slow*) than a bus.
2. A car is  (*fast*) than a horse.
3. My suitcase is  (*big*) than your suitcase.
4. Heathrow airport is  (*busy*) than most other airports.
5. I am always  (*happy*) when I am on vacation.

Make each adjective in the brackets into a comparative adjective using more. These are all long adjectives.

6. Seats in Business Class are  (*comfortable*) than those in Economy class.
7. I am always  (*relaxed*) when I am away from work.
8. Many people think Rome is  (*expensive*) than many other European cities.
9. This flight attendant  (*helpful*) than the other staff.
10. This airline is  (*careful*) with safety than other airlines.

Read this. **This airline is the most expensive airline in Europe.**

This sentence tells us how expensive the airline is. The sentence says that this airline is more expensive than all other airlines in Europe. Most expensive is an example of a *superlative adjective*.

Short adjectives take **-est...** *This airport is the slowest in Europe.*

Long adjectives take **most...** *This is the most comfortable hotel in the country.*

One-syllable adjectives (*cheap, fast*) take **-est**. Three-syllable adjectives (*expensive, comfortable*) take **most**.

Most two-syllable adjectives take **most** but some do not.

Spelling: Some consonants are doubled. *big* → *biggest*. Y changes to i: *happy* → *happiest*

The e is not doubled. *rare* → *rarest*. A few adjectives are irregular: *good* → *best*, *bad* → *worst*

Fill the gaps in the sentences. Choose the best adjective from the list below. Write it in the superlative.

(The first three answers are short adjectives: the last three are long adjectives.)

**careful, comfortable, safe, expensive, wet, old**

11. This airline is the  airline in Europe. The planes never crash.
12. How was your holiday? Terrible! It has been the  summer in history. The sun didn't shine at all!
13. My car is the  car in this city. I wish I could buy a new one!
14. This city is the  in Italy. Other cities are much cheaper.
15. I think this seat is the  seat I have sat in. It is very soft.
16. He is the  pilot we have. He never makes mistakes.

### B: Vocabulary

Complete this table.

Country	Adjective	Country	Adjective
Japan	Japanese	South Africa	
Italy		New Zealand	
United States	American	Egypt	
	Australian	India	
China			German

### C: What Do You Think?

Answer these questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Who is the leader of your country?
2. How does he or she travel in your country?
3. How does he or she travel overseas?
4. Do you think the leader of a country should use expensive or cheap ways of travel on holiday? Why do you think this?

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion - Notes

If you want to introduce comparative and superlative structures now, you can change the questions to "Which is cheaper?" or "Which is the cheapest way of traveling?" You will need to explain to students what a limousine is.

### A: Discussion - Answers

1. A bicycle is a cheap way of traveling. 2. A limousine is a comfortable way of traveling.

### B: General Knowledge - Answers

1. Tony Blair, 2. George W. Bush, 3. Hu Jintao, 4. Romano Prodi, 5. Junichiro Koizumi, 6. Thabo Mbeki, 7. Helen Clark, 8. Hosni Mubarak, 9. APJ Abdul Kalam.

## Reading Activities

### A: Comprehension - Answers

1. travelers (on a flight)/ passengers on a plane, 2. the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, 3. London, 4. cheap.

### B: Fill The Gaps - Answers

1. British, 2. Tuscany, 3. Italian.

### C: Choose The Best Answer - Answers

1. i. 2. ii. 3. i. 4. i.

### D: Sequencing - Answers

3. Blair met the Pope.  
5. Blair got into a limousine at the airport in London.  
1. Blair went to Tuscany.  
2. He had a holiday in Tuscany.  
4. Blair flew from Rome to London.

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Language - Answers

1. slower, 2. faster, 3. bigger, 4. busier, 5. happier, 6. more comfortable, 7. more relaxed, 8. more expensive, 9. more helpful, 10. more careful, 11. safest, 12. wettest, 13. oldest, 14. most expensive, 15. most comfortable, 16. most careful.

### B: Vocabulary - Answers

Country	Adjective
Japan	Japanese
Italy	<b>Italian</b>
United States	American
<b>Australia</b>	Australian
China	<b>Chinese</b>
South Africa	<b>South African</b>
New Zealand	<b>New Zealand</b>
Egypt	<b>Egyptian</b>
India	<b>Indian</b>
<b>Germany</b>	German

