

A2.3 Comparisons

- 1** This general knowledge quiz is designed to present comparative adjectives in an interesting and enjoyable way. It is natural to read out the questions when expecting them to be answered. When it comes to the answers themselves, there are both large numbers and dates. Therefore, it is advisable that the native speaker reads these aloud first and the learner is thereby provided with a model for them to copy as they read them aloud afterwards. Be careful with "(not) as (adjective) as" for description of similarity and contrast (e.g. "not as tall as"). While this might naturally occur to a native speaker as an alternative to "taller than", the structure may not be as familiar to your partner.
- 2** These choices allow for personalisation of the discussion. It is important that both partners should give reasons for their choices and illustrate their answers with real examples.
- 3** Again these questions can lead to a lot of discussion. Most will require some thought before a description of the event or opinion given. A native speaker might naturally 'buy' themselves some thinking time by using expressions such as, "Mmm, that's an interesting question...let me see." As the native speaker, you may consider using similar discourse markers because silence, for thinking time, is usually signalled in such a way in most European cultures.
- 4** It is a good idea to ask which of these two cheerful choices will be the subject for the short writing task and to use some discussion as preparation for the writing to follow.