

6 Tell me! What's it like?

What ... like? • Comparatives and superlatives • Synonyms and antonyms • Directions

STARTER



- 1 What is the capital city of your country? What is the population? Is it an old or modern city?
- 2 Write down two things that you like about your capital and two things that you don't like. Tell the class.

I like travelling on the buses in London but I don't like the Underground, it's too expensive.

WORLD TRAVEL

What's it like?

- 1 Read about Todd Bridges.
- 2 What do you know about Melbourne, Dubai, and Paris? Where are they?
- 3 **T 6.1** Listen to what Todd says about them. Write the adjectives he uses for each city. Compare with a partner.

GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Match the questions and answers.

Do you like Paris?	It's beautiful.
What's Paris like?	Yes, I do.
	It's got lots of old buildings.
	No, I don't.
- 2 Which question in 1 means: *Tell me about Paris.*

▶▶ Grammar Reference 6.1 p135

- 4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about the places Todd visited.

What's Melbourne like?

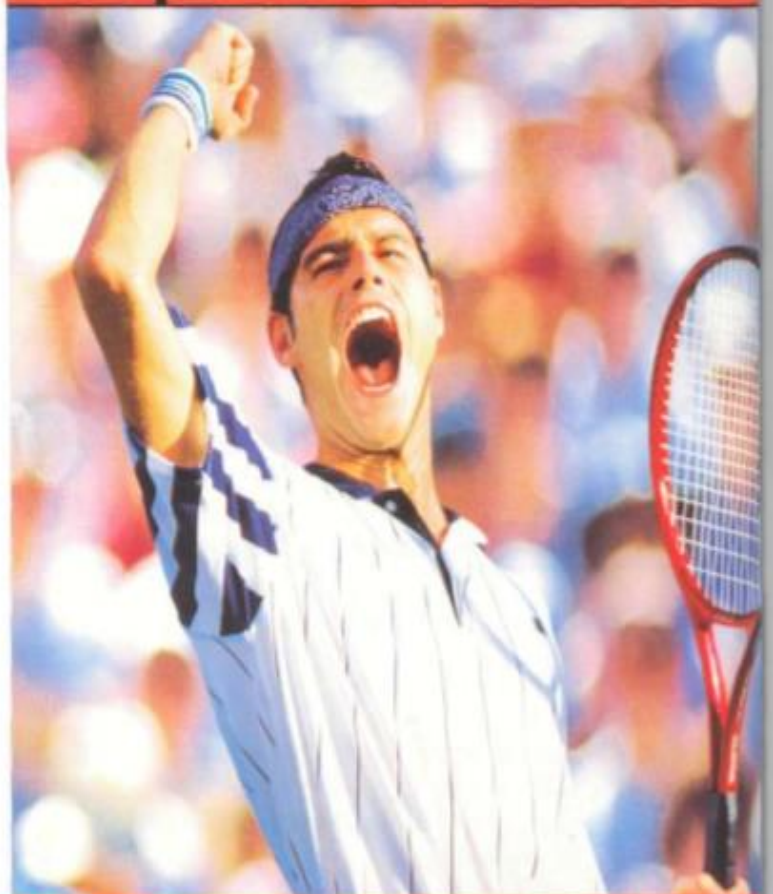
It's ...

It's got ...

There are ...



TODD BRIDGES



Todd Bridges is only seventeen years old but he is already a successful tennis player. He comes from Chicago, USA, but he travels all over the world playing tennis. Last year he played in tennis championships in Melbourne, Dubai, and Paris.

GRAMMAR SPOT

1 What are the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives? What are the rules?

- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| a small | c busy |
| cold | noisy |
| near | dry |
| b big | d beautiful |
| hot | interesting |
| wet | exciting |

2 These adjectives are irregular. What are the comparative and superlative forms?

far good bad

3 Adjectives also combine with *as . . . as*.
Melbourne isn't as cosmopolitan as Chicago.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 6.2 p135

2 Match the verbs and nouns. Many of them are to do with money.

Verbs	Nouns
buy	a bank account
spoil	poverty
wear	a thief
open	a will
live in	stocks and shares
inherit	a child
make	a leg
arrest	ragged clothes
invest	a lot of money from someone
amputate	a lot of money in something

VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

Synonyms

1 We often use synonyms in conversation because we don't want to repeat words.



Complete the conversations, using an adjective of similar meaning from the box.

fed up generous brilliant messy modern wealthy

- 'Mary's family is very rich.'
'Well, I knew her uncle was very _____.'
- 'Look at all these new buildings!'
'Yes. Paris is much more _____ than I expected.'
- 'Wasn't that film wonderful!'
'Yes, it was _____.'
- 'George doesn't earn much money, but he's so kind.'
'He is, isn't he? He's one of the most _____ people I know.'
- 'Ann's bedroom's really untidy again!'
'Is it? I told her it was _____ yesterday, and she promised to clean it.'
- 'I'm bored with this lesson!'
'I know, I'm really _____ with it, too!'

2 **T 6.8** Listen and check. Listen again, paying particular

Antonyms

3 We can also use antonyms in conversation to avoid repeating words.



Match the following adjectives with their *two* opposites in exercise 1.

interested	bored _____	fed up _____
horrible	_____	_____
mean	_____	_____
old	_____	_____
poor	_____	_____
tidy	_____	_____

4 Sometimes it is more polite to use *not very* and an opposite adjective.

Tom's so short.

Well, he's not very tall.

He always wears such dirty clothes.

They certainly aren't very clean.

Reply to these sentences. Be more polite.

- 1 London's such an expensive city.
- 2 Paul and Sue are so mean.
- 3 Their house is always so messy.
- 4 Their children are so noisy.
- 5 John looks so miserable.
- 6 His sister's so stupid.

6.1 What ... like?

Form

what + to be + subject + like?

What	's (is) your teacher are his parents was your holiday were the beaches	like?	She's very patient. They're very kind. Wonderful. We swam a lot. OK, but some were dirty.
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Note

We don't use *like* in the answer.

She's patient. NOT ~~She's like patient.~~

Use

What ... like? means 'Describe somebody or something. Tell me about them. I don't know anything about them.'

Like in this question is a preposition, not a verb:

'What's Jim like?' 'He's intelligent and kind, and he's got lovely blue eyes.'

In the following sentences *like* is a verb:

'What does Jim like?' 'He likes motorbikes and playing tennis.'

Note

How's your mother? asks about health. It doesn't ask for a description.

'How's your mother?' 'She's very well, thank you.'

6.2 Comparative and superlative adjectives

Form

- 1 Look at the chart.

		Comparative	Superlative
Short adjectives	cheap small *big	cheaper smaller bigger	cheapest smallest biggest
Adjectives that end in -y	funny early heavy	funnier earlier heavier	funniest earliest heaviest
Adjectives with two syllables or more	careful boring expensive interesting	more careful more boring more expensive more interesting	most careful most boring most expensive most interesting
Irregular adjectives	far good bad	further better worse	furthest best worst

* Short adjectives with one vowel + one consonant double the consonant: hot/hotter/hottest, fat/fatter/fattest.

- 2 *Than* is often used after a comparative adjective.

I'm **younger than** Barbara.

Barbara's **more intelligent than** Sarah.

Much can come before the comparative to give emphasis.

She's **much nicer than** her sister.

Is Tokyo **much more modern than** London?

- 3 *The* is used before superlative adjectives.

He's **the funniest** boy in the class.

Which is **the tallest** building in the world?

Use

- 1 We use comparatives to compare one thing, person, or action with another.
She's **taller** than me.
London's **more expensive** than Rome.
- 2 We use superlatives to compare somebody or something with the whole group.
She's the **tallest** in the class.
It's the **most expensive** hotel in the world.
- 3 *As ... as* shows that something is the same or equal.
Jim's **as tall as** Peter.
I'm **as worried as** you are.
- 4 *Not as/so ... as* shows that something isn't the same or equal.
She **isn't as tall as** her mother.
My car **wasn't so expensive as** yours.