Workshop 24: Facts and figures ▸

Big numbers, comparatives, superlatives, and the most dangerous place in the world to cross the road

Name: _____	**Date:** _____

This workshop has two halves ▸

Your teacher will set them separately. Each half is marked on its own.

HALF ONE · Facts and figures (Parts 1 to 5, 128 points)

- **Part 1** Vocabulary: high numbers
- **Part 2** Listening: Quiz Night
- **Part 3** Grammar: comparative adjectives
- **Part 4** Grammar Bank 9: a / an / some / any, how much, how many
- **Part 5** Reading: quiz night

HALF TWO · The most dangerous place (Parts 6 to 11, 91 points)

- **Part 6** Vocabulary: places and buildings
- **Part 7** Grammar: superlative adjectives
- **Part 8** Listening: write down what you hear
- **Part 9** Listening: six questions
- **Part 10** Reading: crossing the road
- **Part 11** Writing: an advert for your city

You will need nine recordings: 9.13, 9.15, 9.16 and 9.17 for the first half, and 10.1, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7 for the second. Play each one as many times as you need. Nobody gets these first time.

① Vocabulary: high numbers ▸

Saying and hearing numbers above a hundred

Three things that go wrong with big numbers

- There is no **s** on *hundred*, *thousand* or *million* after a number. **two million**, not *two millions*
- Put **and** between the hundreds and the tens: **six hundred and fifty**.
- Use **a** or **one** before hundred, thousand and million: **a hundred thousand**.

a. Write these numbers in words. (8 points)

1. 350	_____
2. 875	_____
3. 1,500	_____
4. 2,012	_____
5. 5,420	_____
6. 25,000	_____
7. 100,000	_____
8. 2,300,000	_____

▸ **AUDIO 9.13** A presenter asks a contestant three questions on a radio quiz show.

b. The presenter reads three choices for each question. Write the nine choices, in figures. Each row is one question. (9 points)

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
4. _____	5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____	9. _____

c. Listen again. Which choice is right each time: the first, second or third? (3 points)

1. the population of the UK _____	2. New York to Los Angeles _____	3. politicians in Parliament _____

Tip: *Some numbers are said more than once. The contestant gets the last question wrong: listen for the moment the presenter says sorry.*

▸ **AUDIO 9.15** Ten numbers, read out one at a time.

d. Listen and write the numbers you hear. Use figures, not words. (9 points)

The first one is done for you.

1. **199**	2. _____	3. _____
4. _____	5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____	9. _____
10. _____		

⚠ **This one is hard** Stop the recording after every number. Nobody writes these at full speed.

② Listening: Quiz Night ▸

A quiz show on the radio, and a contestant called Eddie

▸ **AUDIO 9.16** The presenter welcomes Eddie and explains the rules.

a. Listen and answer the questions about the rules. (8 points)

1. How many seconds do you have for each answer?	_____
2. What do you say about each sentence?	_____
3. How much do you win for the first correct answer?	_____
4. How much for the second?	_____
5. How much for the third?	_____
6. How much for eight correct answers?	_____
7. What happens if you get one answer wrong?	_____
8. What can you do if you are not sure?	_____

b. Now play the game yourself. Write T (true) or F (false). (8 points)

No phones. Guess if you do not know. Every sentence compares two things.

1. A blue whale is heavier than an elephant.	_____
2. Bogotá is higher than Mexico City.	_____
3. Russia is bigger than Canada.	_____
4. The Atlantic Ocean is bigger than the Pacific Ocean.	_____
5. Gold is more expensive than silver.	_____
6. A giraffe is taller than a horse.	_____
7. Tokyo is bigger than Medellín.	_____
8. February is longer than March.	_____

⚠ **Read this first** The sentences Eddie answers are not the ones in exercise b. Do not try to match them up. Listen for what happens to Eddie, not for the answers.

▸ **AUDIO 9.17** Eddie plays the game. He does well, and then he phones his girlfriend.

c. Listen and answer. (5 points)

1. How many questions does Eddie answer correctly?	_____
2. How much money does he have before the last question?	_____
3. Who does he phone?	_____
4. Does he get the last question right?	_____
5. How much money does he take home?	_____

③ Grammar: comparative adjectives ▸

bigger, hotter, happier, more dangerous, better

a. Look at the sentences in Part 2b and answer these questions. (6 points)

1. What two letters do you add to a short adjective like *tall*?	_____
2. Why is *big* different from *tall*?	_____
3. What happens to an adjective ending in consonant + y, like *heavy*?	_____
4. What word goes in front of a long adjective like *expensive*?	_____
5. Two of these adjectives are irregular. What is the comparative of *good*?	_____
6. What little word comes after a comparative?	_____

How to build a comparative

Use a comparative + **than** to compare **two** things, people or places.

The adjective	Comparative	What you do
old, cheap, slow	older, cheaper, slower	add -er
nice, safe	nicer, safer	already ends in e, so add -r
big, hot, thin	bigger, hotter, thinner	one vowel + one consonant: double the consonant
dry, happy, busy	drier, happier, busier	consonant + y: y becomes i

modern, expensive, comfortable	more modern, more expensive, more comfortable	two syllables or more: use more
tired, bored, stressed	more tired, more bored, more stressed	one syllable but ending in -ed: use more
good, bad, far	better, worse, further	irregular: learn them

Tip: *After a comparative the word is always than, never that and never of.*

b. Write the comparative form. (10 points)

1. cold → _____	2. noisy → _____	3. expensive → _____
4. big → _____	5. good → _____	6. tired → _____
7. thin → _____	8. far → _____	9. beautiful → _____
10. early → _____		

c. Complete with a comparative adjective + than. (10 points)

1. Medellín is _____ Bogotá. (warm)
2. This exercise is _____ the last one. (easy)
3. A plane is _____ a bus. (fast)
4. My new phone is _____ my old one. (good)
5. The shops are _____ on Saturday than on Monday. (busy)
6. Learning English is _____ I thought. (interesting)
7. The traffic today is _____ yesterday. (bad)
8. My brother is _____ me. (young)
9. A taxi is _____ a bus. (expensive)
10. Today is _____ yesterday. (hot)

④ Grammar Bank 9 ▸

a / an / some / any, and how much / how many

This part is revision. You met all of it in Workshop 23. If it comes back easily, it has stuck. If it does not, tell your teacher, because everything after this builds on it.

a. Write a, an or some. (8 points)

1. _____ apple	2. _____ rice	3. _____ sandwich
4. _____ eggs	5. _____ orange	6. _____ cheese
7. _____ carrots	8. _____ banana	

b. Complete the conversation with a, an, some or any. (10 points)

A What shall we cook tonight?
B Let's make _____ (1) omelette.
A Good idea. Are there _____ (2) eggs?
B Yes. And there is _____ (3) cheese too.
A Is there _____ (4) onion?
B No, there isn't _____ (5) onion, but there are _____ (6) tomatoes.
A We don't have _____ (7) bread.
B I bought _____ (8) bread yesterday.
A And is there _____ (9) fruit for dessert?
B There are _____ (10) apples.

c. Complete the questions with How much or How many. (10 points)

1. _____ sugar do you put in your coffee?
2. _____ eggs do we need?
3. _____ water do you drink every day?
4. _____ brothers and sisters do you have?
5. _____ money did it cost?
6. _____ hours do you work?
7. _____ milk is there in the fridge?
8. _____ people were at the party?
9. _____ bread do you want?
10. _____ cups of coffee does she drink?

Tip: *How many goes with things you can count. How much goes with things you cannot.*

d. Circle the correct word or phrase. (10 points)

1. I don't drink (much / many) coffee.
2. There aren't (much / many) cafés near here.
3. We eat (a lot of / much) vegetables.
4. How (much / many) money do you need?
5. I only want (a little / a few) sugar.
6. She has (a little / a few) friends in Bogotá.
7. Do you eat (much / many) fruit?
8. There isn't (some / any) milk.
9. He doesn't have (much / many) free time.
10. Would you like (some / any) coffee?

⑤ Reading: quiz night ▸

What it is, and seven ways to win one

a. Read. Is there anything like this in your city?

QUIZ NIGHT

A quiz night is a general knowledge competition. It usually happens in a bar or a café, in the evening. People come in teams of four, five or six, and every team chooses a name. One person, the quizmaster, reads the questions out loud, and the teams write their answers on a piece of paper. You cannot use your phone. The team with the most correct answers wins.

Quiz nights started in the United Kingdom in the nineteen seventies, and today there are more than twenty thousand of them every week. Some are free. In others, each person pays a small amount, usually between two and five pounds, and the winning team takes the money.

They are popular because they are cheap, because they are social, and because they are more interesting than an evening in front of the television.

b. Read the seven tips and write the right letter, A to G, in each box. (6 points)

A Pick your team with care.	E Notice things.
B Do not be a bad loser.	F Know about current affairs.
C No cheating.	G Learn the famous names.
D Have fun.	

1	**D**	That is what the evening is really for. Do not take it too seriously.
2	___	Make sure you have friends who are experts in different subjects.
3	___	Phones, dictionaries and newspapers are not allowed.
4	___	Find out what is happening in your country and in the world.
5	___	Memorize the winners of the big competitions and the big prizes.
6	___	Interesting facts are everywhere. Remember them.
7	___	If you lose, say well done to the other team. There is always next week.

c. What do these words mean? Write the meaning in your own words or in Spanish. (7 points)

1. a team	_____
2. a quizmaster	_____
3. an expert	_____
4. to cheat	_____
5. to memorize	_____
6. to be a bad loser	_____
7. to win	_____

Tip: *Say each one out loud and underline the strong syllable: QUIZmaster, EXpert, MEMorize.*

d. Talk about these with a partner. (not marked)

1 Do you ever play quizzes or general knowledge games? Where?
2 Are you a good loser or a bad loser? Be honest.
3 Which quiz shows are on television in Colombia? Do you watch any of them?
4 Who is the person in your family who knows the most facts?
5 Would you like to be a contestant on a quiz show? Which one, and why?

HALF TWO: The most dangerous place… ▸

Superlatives, places and buildings, and crossing the road

Name: _____	**Date:** _____

Parts 6 to 11 · 91 points

- **Part 6** Vocabulary: places and buildings (24 points)
- **Part 7** Grammar: superlative adjectives (38 points)
- **Part 8** Listening: write down what you hear (8 points)
- **Part 9** Listening: six questions (6 points)
- **Part 10** Reading: crossing the road (5 points)
- **Part 11** Writing: an advert for your city (10 points)

Recordings for this half: 10.1, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7.

⑥ Vocabulary: places and buildings ▸

The words for what is in a town

a. Complete each sentence with one word from the list. (6 points)

bridge castle gallery park square street

1. Tower _____ opens to let tall ships through.
2. Bolívar _____ is in the centre of Bogotá.
3. Edinburgh _____ stands on a rock above the city.
4. Simón Bolívar _____ is a big green space in Bogotá.
5. The Uffizi _____ in Florence is one of the oldest museums in the world.
6. Carrera Séptima is a long _____ in Bogotá.

Tip: *Five of these are part of a name, so they need a capital letter. One does not. And the t in castle is silent: say it CAH-sl.*

▸ **AUDIO 10.1** Six sentences about famous places in the United Kingdom and the United States.

b. Listen. Write the six places, and what each one is. (6 points)

The place	What it is
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____

c. Write the right place from the bank next to each description. (12 points)

a town hall · a park · a chemist's · a department store · a market · a hospital · a supermarket · a post office · a church · a shopping centre · a police station · a theatre · a zoo · a museum · an art gallery · a castle · a street · a road · a river · a bridge · a square · a railway station · a bus station · a car park

1. You go here to buy medicine.	_____
2. You go here if you are very ill.	_____
3. You go here to send a letter.	_____
4. You go here to see a play.	_____
5. You go here to leave your car.	_____
6. You go here to see animals.	_____
7. You go here to see paintings by famous artists.	_____
8. You go here to catch a train.	_____
9. A big building with a lot of different shops inside it.	_____
10. This connects two different towns or cities.	_____
11. This goes over a river.	_____
12. This is where the local government offices are.	_____

Tip: *In two-word names the stress is on the first word: POST office, ART gallery, CAR park.*

⑦ Grammar: superlative adjectives ▸

the biggest, the busiest, the most dangerous, the best

▸ **AUDIO 10.3** Six facts about six places. Each one has a number in it.

a. Listen and complete the table. (12 points)

	The superlative	The place
shopping street in Europe	_____	_____
railway station in the world	_____	_____
bridge in Europe	_____	_____
river in the world	_____	_____
place to cross the road	_____	_____

cathedral in the world	_____	_____

Tip: *Listen a second time just for the numbers. Five hundred thousand shoppers, forty-four platforms, two thousand years, six thousand eight hundred and fifty-three kilometres, five million scooters, a hundred and sixty-one metres.*

b. Complete the chart. (8 points)

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
old	older	*the oldest*
_____	taller	the tallest
long	_____	the longest
big	bigger	_____
_____	busier	the busiest
dangerous	more dangerous	_____
good	_____	_____
bad	worse	_____

c. Finish the rule. (2 points)

1. For short adjectives we add _____ to the end.	
2. For long adjectives we put _____ in front.	

Comparative or superlative?

- Two things: **Bogotá is bigger than Cali.**
- Three or more: **Bogotá is the biggest city in Colombia.**
- The spelling changes are the same as for comparatives: **hot → hotter → the hottest**.
- After a superlative use **in**, not *of*: the tallest building **in** the world.

d. Write the superlative. (8 points)

1. cheap → _____	2. hot → _____	3. easy → _____
4. good → _____	5. expensive → _____	6. bad → _____
7. far → _____	8. noisy → _____	

e. Complete the sentences with a superlative. (8 points)

1. Bogotá is _____ city in Colombia. (big)	
2. For me, Sunday is _____ day of the week. (good)	
3. This is _____ chair in the house. (comfortable)	
4. Who is _____ student in the class? (young)	
5. That was _____ film of the year. (bad)	

6. The Nile is _____ river in the world. (long)
7. My bedroom is _____ room in the flat. (small)
8. It is _____ building in the city. (beautiful)

⑧ Listening: write down what you hear ▸

Two or three consonants together, all in one go

Two or three consonants together are hard to say. Say them slowly first, then fast.

fastest most dangerous

▸ **AUDIO 10.6** One word, then a phrase, then a longer phrase, then a question.

a. Listen and write down what you hear. Do not worry about spelling the first time. (4 points)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

▸ **AUDIO 10.7** Four more, each built up in the same four stages.

b. You will hear four stages each time. Write only the last one, the question. (4 points)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Now read your four questions out loud. What does each one mean? Ask your partner all four about your own city, and answer theirs.

⑨ Listening: six questions ▸

Six superlative questions about cities

▸ **AUDIO 10.5** Six questions. Each one has a superlative in it.

a. Listen and write the six questions. (6 points)

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____

Now guess the answers in pairs. Your teacher has them. *(not marked)*

⑩ Reading: crossing the road ▸

Five ways to get to the other side

CROSSING THE ROAD

In most countries you wait for a gap in the traffic, and then you cross. But in some cities the traffic never stops, and crossing the road becomes an adventure. Here are five things that worked for me.

Walk, do not run. A taxi driver told me: "Walk at the same speed all the way. Don't stop, and don't run. The drivers are watching you, and they need to know where you are going." _____ **(1)**

Cross with somebody who lives there. This is the safest way for a beginner. I waited for an older woman with two heavy bags, and I crossed next to her. _____ **(2)**

Cross in a group. One afternoon I crossed with four students. We all stepped off the pavement together. _____ **(3)**

Ask a police officer. In many cities the traffic police are happy to help, and part of their job is to get people safely across. _____ **(4)**

Take a taxi. For the price of a coffee, somebody else solves the problem for you. _____ **(5)**

a. Complete the five gaps with sentences A to E. (5 points)

A	It was the easiest crossing of the whole week.
B	But then one of them stopped in the middle of the road, and we all stopped too.
C	So if you really cannot do it, there is always a taxi.
D	I did exactly that, and I arrived on the other side.
E	I was embarrassed to ask, but they smiled and walked across with me.

1. → ____	2. → ____	3. → ____
4. → ____	5. → ____	

b. Talk about these in a group. (not marked)

1 What is the most popular form of transport in your city?
2 Where and when is the traffic worst?
3 How do you usually get around?
4 Do cars always stop at a zebra crossing where you live?
5 Is there a street near you that is really difficult to cross?
6 Was there ever a city where the traffic frightened you?

⑪ Writing: an advert for your city ▸

Sell it to a tourist, in superlatives

a. Write your advert. (10 points)

Write an advert for your town or city for tourists. Use **at least five superlatives**. Write 60 to 80 words.

Come to Kielce. It isn't the biggest or the most beautiful town in Poland, but it has the cleanest air and the most delicious cheesecake…

How this is marked: 5 points for five correct superlatives, one each. 3 points for the content: does it make somebody want to go? 2 points for accuracy. 10 points in total. Add photographs if you can.