

Unit 3

Inspiring architecture

Grammar
Comparatives and superlatives;
compound adjectives



Discuss
Guess!

Guess the photo and fill in the table with information about each famous modern building.

	Photo	Country	Use
The Kingdom Centre	c	KSA	Offices
National Assembly Building	f	Kuwait	Parliament building
The Guggenheim Museum	e	Spain	Art museum
The Petronas Towers	a	Malaysia	Offices
The Sydney Opera House	b	Australia	Opera house and concert hall
The Rose Tower	d	Dubai	Hotel

2 Read the Factfile on page 25.

- a) What do the descriptions and the numbers preceding them refer to?
- b) Work in pairs. Choose a building or a house you know very well and plan a similar factfile for it. **Students' own answers**

Read

3 (3.1) Listen and read the description on page 25.

- a) Which building is the person describing? **The Sydney Opera House**
- b) Fill in the gaps with the correct adjective as you listen to the text.

a) The descriptions and the numbers refer to the materials and measurements used in the design of the building that is being described.

- 1 million white tiles
- 10,000 or more organ pipes
- 2679 concert hall seats
- 645 kilometres of electrical cable
- 588 concrete pillars
- 183 metres long

A Celebrated Construction ...

It's definitely worth going to see this renowned piece of (1) **modern** architecture. I went last year and it's absolutely (2) **impossible** to imagine the harbour without it. The design style is called 'expressionist' and is very distinctive. The same architect who built the National Assembly Building in Kuwait designed it, and it's (3) **easy** to see why it was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. When I first saw it, I thought the geometric structure evoked the style of a ship. That's because of the (4) **giant** framework of concrete shells that are formed from different sections of a sphere. It's so (5) **large** that engineers had to drill 588 concrete pillars into the sea to secure its foundation. From the outside it might look huge, but inside it seems much (6) **smaller**. The venue interior is slightly (7) **old-fashioned** now: that's because it's over thirty years old. There are five main performance venues: the Concert Hall, the Opera Theatre, the Drama Theatre, the Playhouse and the Studio. The (8) **largest** venue has 2679 seats, whilst the (9) **smallest** has a maximum capacity of 400 people. There's also a forecourt, which is sometimes used for open-air concerts. Going to a performance in any of the venues is (10) **expensive**, and it's very difficult to get tickets, but you can walk around some areas for free.

Check your understanding

4 (3.1) Listen again and answer these questions.

- a Make quick notes on the following.
 - 1 How the building was constructed
 - 2 Opinions about the building
- b What information do you think is missing from the description? Compare your opinions with those of a partner.

Words to remember

- concrete, design, drill,
- evoke, expressionist,
- forecourt, foundation,
- framework, geometric,
- renowned, slightly, studio,
- venue

5 Are these statements True (T) or false (F)? Justify your answer.

- a The Sydney Opera House and the National Assembly Building are very similar in their design.
False. They are built by the same designer, but are not similar
- b All the tourists who have visited the Sydney Opera House believed that it evoked the style of a ship.
False. This is the opinion of the speaker only.
- c The Sydney Opera House isn't as huge inside as it looks from the outside.
True. From the outside it might look huge, but inside it seems much smaller
- d Not all areas of the Sydney Opera House require visitors to have tickets in order to visit.
True. You can walk around some areas for free.

Think and speak (describing; expressing likes and dislikes; giving reasons)

6 Look at the photographs again.

- a Choose one sentence from each pair and complete it with your own ideas.
 - 1 I'd love to live or work in a huge modern building because ...
or I would not like to live or work in a huge modern building because ...
 - 2 The best thing about modern buildings is ...
or The worst thing about modern buildings is ...
- b Compare answers with those of another student. Do you agree with each other?

Grammar

• Comparatives and superlatives Grammar reference pages 126-127

1 Find the adjectives in this short text.

The Kuwait Stock Exchange is a large and important centre of finance in the Gulf region. It is a tall, modernistic building situated in a busy part of Kuwait City. The main trading floor is substantial, and the big offices are very spacious.

Note

-er is added to adjectives for comparison and -est to adjectives in the superlative form.

2 Complete this table and add the adjectives **tall, large, big, busy** and **important** in the correct spaces based on the spelling of the adjectives shown.

Adjective		Comparative		Superlative	
short	<i>tall</i>	shorter	<i>taller</i>	the shortest	<i>the tallest</i>
thin	<u>big</u>	thinner	<u>biger</u>	the thinnest	<u>The biggest</u>
heavy	<u>busy</u>	heavier	<u>busier</u>	the heaviest	<u>The biggest</u>
luxurious	more luxurious	the most	<u>The most</u>
	<u>important</u>		<u>More important</u>	luxurious	<u>important</u>
fine	<u>large</u>	finer	<u>larger</u>	the finest	<u>The largest</u>

What are the comparative and superlative forms of the irregular adjectives **good** and **bad**?

3 You are going to compare the buildings on the right.

a First match adjectives 1–6 with the opposite adjectives a–f. You may use the dictionary or the glossary at the end of the book.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1 spacious | <u>d</u> | a modern / chic |
| 2 affordable | <u>e</u> | b weak |
| 3 cosy | <u>f</u> | c well-lit |
| 4 dark | <u>c</u> | d tiny |
| 5 traditional | <u>a</u> | e costly |
| 6 sturdy | <u>b</u> | f uncomfortable |

b Now write sentences comparing the buildings using some of these adjectives. **Students' own answers**

The flat is more modern than the hut.
The villa is the most modern building.

• Compound adjectives Grammar reference page 127

4 Look at this compound adjective and its meaning.

It's a seven-star hotel = It's a hotel with seven stars.

Now rewrite these phrases using compound adjectives:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a a journey of 20 kilometres | <u>a 20-kilometre journey</u> |
| b a meal with three courses | <u>a three-course meal</u> |
| c a block of 44 storeys | <u>a 44-storey block</u> |



KWD 27,000



KWD 152,000



KWD 36,000



KWD 570,000

Vocabulary Buildings in Kuwait

1 a Use words from the box to describe the pictures.

*residential commercial cultural governmental public state
private trade educational*



- b** Discuss these questions with a partner. **Students' own answers**
- 1 How many different rooms do you think each building has?
 - 2 How many different types of people do you think use each building?
 - 3 Which of the buildings would you most like to spend an afternoon in? Why?
- c** Write the different parts of the hotel on the picture below:



entrance, ground floor,
roof, balcony, swimming
pool, garden, fountain,
first floor

remember

environmental,
modernistic, public,
residential, spacious,
state, sturdy, substantial

Think and speak

2 Work with a partner. Describe your favourite building in Kuwait.

Pronunciation

3 (3.2) Listen and repeat these words. Where is the stress?

- a** cultural **c** governmental **e** confidontial
b commercial **d** environmental **f** residential

4 (3.3) Now listen and repeat the words in sentences.

Speaking Discussing plans for a new airport

Listen

1 This picture provides a view of Al Wafra in Kuwait. Discuss these questions:

- a What do you know about Al Wafra?
- b Would you like to live there? Why or why not?



2 (3.4) You are going to hear a conversation among three people who live in this area. As you listen, answer these questions.

- a What is the bad news? ...building a new airport right through the area.

b What two locations are mentioned? the main runway 500 metres from the town; on the other side of the oilfield

3 (3.4) Listen again. What suggestion does the speaker make? How does the other speaker reply? suggests that they build the airport on the other side of the oilfield. The other speaker replies that it would be more expensive to do that

Discussion and presentation

4 Work in groups. You are going to discuss the new airport location and make your own suggestions.

- a Talk about the points below. Use expressions from the *Useful Language* box.
 - › The advantages of building a new airport
 - › The disadvantages of building a new airport
 - › The needs of people who live in this area.

One student in each group should make a written note of the best ideas.

- b Present your ideas and suggestions to another group or to the rest of the class. Each member of the group should talk about one point from question a.
- c Finally, have a class vote to nominate the best ideas.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Making suggestions

They could ...
Do you think it would be a good idea to ...?
What about ...?
I / We suggest that ...
I / We recommend that ...

Agreeing with a suggestion

That's a good idea. / That sounds good. / Why not? / Brilliant idea! / I agree.

Disagreeing with a suggestion

No, I don't think so.
I'm not so sure.
I don't think that's a very good idea.
I'm not really keen on that idea.

Quote "He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace at home."
Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Writing A formal report

Read and analyse

٦٧ ٥١٦

You are going to write a formal report to send to the city council about building a new airport near to your town.

1 This is a report by a group of local business people who want the airport to be located in Al Wafra, near the town.

- a As you read the report, match these headings with the appropriate sections of the report.
- Conclusion / recommendations **4**
 - The reason for writing **1**
 - The benefits **2**
 - The worries of a minority **3**

To The Ministry of Transport
From The Al Wafra Council
Subject The proposed new airport

1 _____
 The objective of this report is to comment on the effect that the new airport development will have on Al Wafra.

2 _____
 The majority of the council believe that the new airport is a profitable idea. They think it will create a valuable commuter link to other Gulf countries and strengthen the economic growth of Al Wafra. This will benefit all the inhabitants. In addition to this, people will be able to commute to Kuwait City in 10 minutes by helicopter. Currently this journey takes one hour by car.

3 _____
 A small group of people in the area are apprehensive about the effect the airport will have on their lives. In particular, they think the school will be badly affected. Some of the senior citizens have also voiced the concern that the airport will bring an unwelcome influx of traffic to the region.

4 _____
 This group welcomes the building of the new airport and looks forward to the benefits it will generate. However, we realise that the noise from the runway may have a detrimental effect on the local school. For this reason, we advocate that a new school be built in another location.

- b Work in pairs. Look at the report again. What can you say about:
- its appearance?
 - the language: verb forms, etc.?
 - the beginning and the ending?

appearance: It is set out in a formal way (i.e. typewritten, with a formal heading, and headings for each

Plan your report

2 Now plan a report to the Ministry of Transport, giving your group's opinions.

- Decide what your section headings will be.
- Think about the ideas your group previously discussed.

Words to remember

advocate, apprehensive, benefit, council, detrimental, influx, objective, profitable, voice

age: The language are are noshort language is not is used in several il as in a report, nindividual

ending: no closing words

Write and check

- 3** a Write your report in about 150-170 words, using your plan and the business report.
 b Check spelling, grammar and punctuation carefully.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Stating one's purpose

The purpose of this report is ...
 This report will consider ...

Giving reasons

For this / these reason(s) ...
 Because of this, ...