

The importance of the past

Unit aims

Task 1	Task 2
Comparing information	Using <i>it/they/this/these</i>
Adverbs in comparisons	Planning essays
Comparing and contrasting	Developing ideas

Task 1 Comparing information



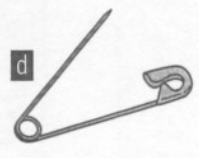
a Ballpoint pen, Laszlo Biro



b Tin can patented by Peter Durand



c First mercury thermometer, Gabriel Fahrenheit



d Safety pin, Walter Hunt

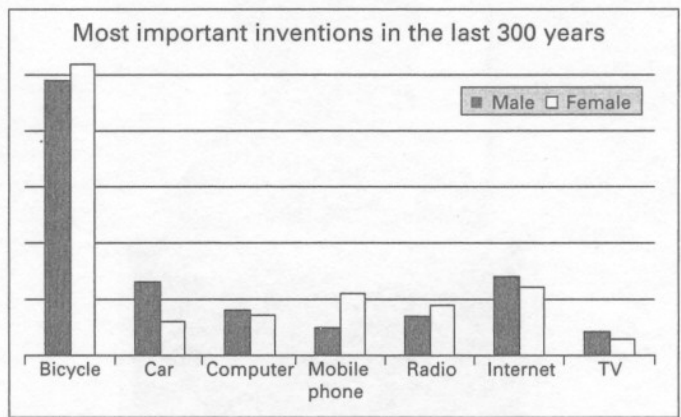


e Paper money in China

1 The pictures and text show some inventions and who invented them. Answer the questions.

- a Which is the oldest invention?
- b Which is the most recent invention?
- c Which do you think are the most and least important inventions?
- d What other important historical inventions are not included here?

2 The chart shows the results of a survey about the most important inventions in the last 300 years. Answer the questions.



- a What is the most striking feature of the chart?
- b What voting patterns can you see for females?
- c What voting patterns can you see for males?

Technique

In the test, circle and number important details in pencil.

3 You can use a range of structures to make comparisons. Read these examples describing the chart in 2. Then complete sentences a-j with suitable information based on the chart.

Examples

More males than females chose the TV. (*more + noun + than*)
 Fewer females than males chose the TV. (*fewer + noun + than*)
 The TV was *more popular* among males than females. (*more/less + adjective + than*)
 The *most popular* form of communication was the Internet. (*the most/least + adjective*)

- a More females males chose the bicycle.
- b The bicycle was more than any other invention.
- c The car was popular among females than males.
- d invention among both sexes was the TV.
- e women than men voted for the mobile phone.
- f invention among both sexes was the bicycle.
- g males than females picked the radio.
- h The computer was for women than for men.
- i More people selected the bicycle any other invention.
- j The TV was popular than any other invention.

4 You can also compare information by using *as many ... as* when numbers are very close, or by using *not as many ... as*. Read the examples. Then compare male and female attitudes to cars and mobile phones.

Examples

As many females as males chose the computer.
Not as many females as males chose the radio.

5 Make comparative sentences based on notes a–g below and the chart in 2. Use the passive or active form of the verb in italics.

Examples

females/males/ <i>select</i> /the bicycle	<i>More females than males selected the bicycle.</i>
males/females/ <i>select</i> /the bicycle	<i>Fewer males than females selected the bicycle.</i>
the bicycle/ <i>choose</i> /females/males	<i>The bicycle was chosen by more females than males.</i>

- a males/females/*choose*/the car
.....
- b women/men/*select*/the mobile phone
.....
- c the Internet/*choose*/males/females
.....
- d females/males/*pick*/the radio
.....
- e males/females/*pick*/the radio
.....
- f the computer/*choose*/females/males
.....
- g the bicycle/*select*/males/females
.....

Adverbs in comparisons

- 6 You can add adverbs to comparisons to make them more precise, such as *significantly (more)* or *almost (as many)*. Read the examples. Then underline the adverbs in sentences a–i.

Examples

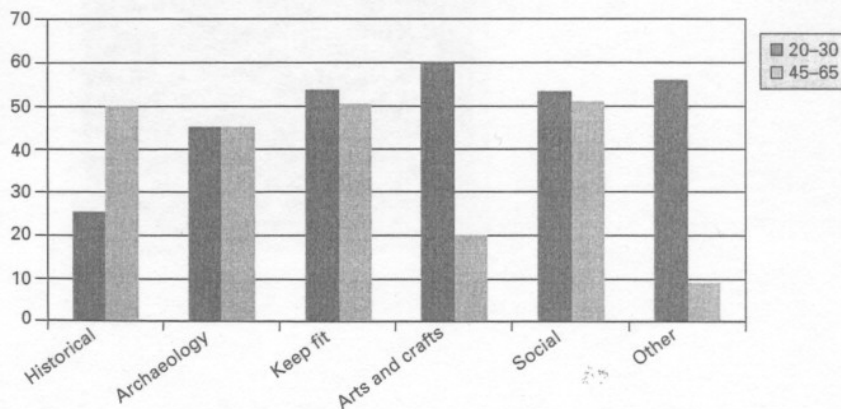
Significantly more people voted for the bicycle than the other inventions.
The bicycle was chosen by *almost as many* males *as* females.

- a Slightly more women than men voted for the bicycle.
b In the past, considerably more people lived in the countryside than towns.
c Many more people can use a computer today than thirty years ago.
d Substantially less time is now spent doing housework than before.
e There are significantly fewer people now working in manufacturing than in the past.
f Sports programmes are watched by practically as many people now as in previous years.
g The exhibition about cinema attracted far fewer visitors than expected.
h Illiteracy is much less common than in previous generations.
i Nearly as many children as adults watch programmes about ancient history.
- 7 Which adverbs above mean:
a almost? b a lot? c just a few?

- 8 Look again at the sentences you wrote in 5 on page 15. Add suitable adverbs.

Comparing and contrasting

- 9 Answer these questions about the bar chart.
a What do you think the bar chart provides information about?
b What could the numbers on the left relate to?
c What do you think the words along the bottom of the chart relate to?
d What could the numbers in the box refer to?
e Is there a time reference for the graph?



- 10 Match sentence beginnings 1–6 with endings a–f to form correct sentences about the chart.
- 1 The arts and crafts society has the greatest number of 20–30 year-olds,
 - 2 Only 25 people from the younger age group are members of the historical society,
 - 3 Some societies are clearly more popular with one of the age groups,
 - 4 The keep fit and social clubs have slightly more members in the younger age bracket,
 - 5 In general, the 20–30 year-olds are more actively involved in societies
 - 6 The keep fit and social clubs attract a broader range of people
- a *whereas* the archaeological society is equally popular with both.
 - b *in comparison with* the historical society.
 - c *but* it is one of the least popular clubs with the older age group.
 - d *compared with* the older age group.
 - e *while* the figure for 45–65 year-olds is about 50.
 - f *although* they are fairly popular with both age groups.
- 11 In which of the sentences in 10 could the ending a–f come first? Which connecting words in italics are followed by a noun phrase only?
- 12 Read the description of the chart in 9. For each of 1–6, two options are possible and one is incorrect. Delete the incorrect option.

Model text

The chart provides information about how two age groups participate in several clubs at a centre for adults.

We can see from the data that the archaeological, keep fit, and social clubs are popular with both older and younger people. ¹ *While/However/By contrast*, the historical and arts and crafts societies clearly appeal more to one of the age groups. In the historical society, 50 of the members are between 45 and 65, ² *but/while/however* there are only 25 from the younger age group. For the arts and crafts society, the pattern is reversed.

There are about 60 members aged between 20 and 30, ³ *but/whereas/in comparison with* the number of people in the 45 to 65 age group is ⁴ *far/slightly/considerably* lower. The keep fit and social clubs are popular with both age groups, ⁵ *however/but/although* there are slightly fewer older people. Membership of the archaeological society stands at 45 for both groups.

In general, the younger age group are ⁶ *significantly/almost/noticeably* more involved in the various societies than the 45–65 year-olds.

Technique

- In the test, make
- a quick list of
- the comparison
- structures you know
- before you write.