

## UNIT 3: WORKING TOGETHER

### LESSON 2: THE PROS AND CONS OF ONLINE LEARNING AND IN-PERSON CLASSES

#### Lesson aims:

- Brainstorm ideas
- Use a table to organize ideas
- Talk about pros and cons / advantages and disadvantages
- Understand and use adjectives to make comparisons

#### Lead-in

#### Written assignment

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying online compared to studying in person?*

1. Brainstorm ideas about the topic. Use the table below to organize your ideas. Think about:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • cost        | • socializing |
| • time        | • flexibility |
| • location    | • technology  |
| • convenience | • learning    |

ONLINE CLASSES		IN-PERSON CLASSES	
PROS	CONS	PROS	CONS

2. Share your ideas with other classmates.

## Listening

1. *Listen to a group of students talking about the assignment. Which topics do they talk about?*
2. *Listen again. Which of the following points do they mention?*
  - a. You can study any time.
  - b. It's more comfortable.
  - c. You can take more time if you need to.
  - d. You have to set your own deadlines.
  - e. It's easier to discuss things online.
  - f. It's cheaper to study at home.
  - g. You can take time to think about what to say.

## Critical Thinking

1. *Discuss the questions below.*
  - a. Why is it good to brainstorm ideas with other people?
  - b. In the conversation they talked about thinking about your own ideas and comparing them with information. Why?

## Organizing Ideas

1. *Fill in the table with your ideas and notes from the listening. Compare your ideas with a partner.*

ONLINE CLASSES		IN-PERSON CLASSES	
PROS	CONS	PROS	CONS

## Grammar: Comparative Adjectives

1. Decide if the following adjectives are positive or negative.

<b>cheap</b>	<b>flexible</b>	<b>sociable</b>	<b>expensive</b>
<b>noisy</b>	<b>reliable</b>	<b>convenient</b>	<b>confident</b>
<b>efficient</b>	<b>comfortable</b>	<b>shy</b>	

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE

2. Look at some of the ideas from the conversation. Do you agree?

- Studying online is cheaper than going to in person classes.
- Talking to classmates is easier in the classroom than online.
- Studying online is less sociable than with in person classes.
- Studying online is better than in person classes.
- Studying online is more flexible than going to in person classes.

COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES	
SHORT ADJECTIVES + -er (than)	LONG ADJECTIVES more / less + adjective (than)
cheap > cheaper	more / less expensive
nice > nicer	more / less sociable
big > bigger	more / less difficult
easy > easier	more / less comfortable
IRREGULAR FORMS	
good > better	
bad > worse	



**GRAMMAR  
SUPPLEMENT:  
COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES**

3. Look at the table and sentences in exercise 2. Then, answer the questions.

- a) What letters do you add to a short adjective to form a comparative adjective? .....
- b) When do you add a double letter e.g. 'gg'? .....
- c) When do you change the 'y' to 'ier'? .....
- d) What word often comes after a comparative adjective? .....

4. **Practice.** Complete the sentences using the correct form of the comparative adjective.

*Example:* Studying online is ..... **better** ..... [good] than studying in the classroom.

- a) Studying online is ..... [expensive] than in person classes.
- b) Reading a book is ..... [easy] than reading a screen.
- c) Studying online can be ..... [comfortable] than going to in person classes.
- d) Taking exams online is ..... [bad] than in the classroom.

### Critical Thinking

1. Decide if the following sentences express advantages or disadvantages for studying online. Do you agree or disagree with the statements?

- a. A shy student can be less passive in an online class. ....
- b. You have time to be more accurate in an online class. ....
- c. You can learn to be more confident when studying online. ....

2. Give reasons for your opinion. Complete the sentences below. For example:

*Online learning is more convenient than in-person classes, because you can study any time and you can take more time to think about what you want to say.*

- a. Studying online is cheaper, because .....
- b. In-person classes are more sociable, because .....
- c. ....
- d. ....

## Final Lesson Task

1. Choose a topic that students in your class have different opinions about. For example, is it better to travel to the university bus, metro, or bicycle?
2. Use the table below to organize your ideas.

.....		.....	
PROS	CONS	PROS	CONS

3. Write sentences making comparisons, using positive and negative adjectives to show your opinion. Justify your opinion by adding reasons.

### Exit Ticket

Can you do these things?

	I can brainstorm in an effective way.	1	
	I can use a table to organize my ideas.	2	
	I can talk about pros and cons.	3	
	I can understand and use adjectives to make comparisons.	4	
		5	

### My Top 5 Words from this lesson:

### Homework: Self-study

[90 minutes per week]

1. **GRAMMAR SUPPLEMENT: Comparative Adjectives**



2. **Extra practice** (online): Comparative adjectives

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/a1-a2-grammar/comparative-adjectives>

3. **Extra practice and explanations:** Comparative adjectives

Murphy, R. (2015). *Essential Grammar in Use. A self-study reference and practice book for elementary-level learners of English*. 4th ed. Cambridge University Press.  
[pp. 184 - 189]

## Transcripts

### LISTENING – TRANSCRIPT

A: Do you have any ideas about what you want to write about?

B: Not really. I searched for online learning on the internet, and I found some information on Wikipedia. That's all I did.

C: A teacher told me last year that Wikipedia wasn't a good source and that I should use more reliable sources.

A: Yeah, I agree. Wikipedia is a good place to start, but it's a good idea to also use Google Scholar to find more reliable sources.

C: My teachers told me that I should have my own ideas and compare them with the information I find.

A: OK, so let's talk about what we think about online learning and in person learning. Benji, what did you find on Wikipedia?

B: Well, it said that studying online is more convenient, because you can study any time and you can take more time if you need to.

C: That's true, but you have to be organized and set your own deadlines. I don't know about you, but that would be difficult for me.

B: Well, it can be cheaper, too. So, you don't need to leave your home. In fact, you could study from anywhere.

A: Yes, it's more flexible. You can study from home and work at the same time.

C: I like in-person classes because it's easier to discuss ideas with other students and the teacher. Studying online is less sociable.

A: I think in-person classes are better too. It's harder to connect with people with online classes.

B: I'm not sure. For me I'm not very confident with discussing things in the classroom. I prefer doing that online, because it gives me more time to think about what I want to say.