

Top Gear (BBC, UK), The Smallest Car in the World

Introduction

1. Do you own a car? why/why not?
2. Have you ever seen the TV programme *Top Gear*?
3. Would you be interested in more TV programmes about cars?

Video

Watch the video for the first time and answer the comprehension questions below.

1. What is the size of the P50?

- a) 50 cm long and 41 cm wide.
- b) 54 inches long and 41 inches wide.
- c) 51 inches long and 40 inches wide.

2. How tall is Jeremy Clarkson?

- a) five foot six inches.
- b) two hundred and fifty six cm.
- c) six foot five inches.

3. When was the car manufactured?

- a) 1966
- b) the early-60s
- c) in the 50s and the 60s.

4. How much did the car cost?

- a) £189
- b) £190
- c) £198

How many horsepower is the vehicle?

- a) Four and a half.
- b) Fourteen.
- c) More than fourteen.

Why does Jeremy take the car to his important BBC meeting?

- a) Because he is running late.
- b) Because he is lazy.
- c) To see if it is quicker than running.

Who does he meet in the lift?

- a) the receptionist from his office.
- b) a TV presenter.
- c) a newsreader.

How long has Jeremy worked at the BBC?

- a) 20 years.
- b) Over 25 years.
- c) 24 years.

Now watch again and fill in the gaps below.

"As the country becomes more and more _____ and the environmentalists become more and more _____, it makes more and more _____ than ever to have a small car."

"40 years ago car manufacturers could sell you something much _____."

"It's listed in the Guinness Book of records as the _____ car _____."

"The Peel P50 was said to be almost _____ than walking."

"The top speed depends on how _____ you are, and actually, how much you had for breakfast. But realistically even the _____, _____ chap with the _____ of teeth will struggle to get past 35 [MPH]."

"unfortunately, though, this is the most _____ building in the world!"

Grammar - Comparative and Superlative

One Syllable Adjectives: big, small, soft, hard etc.

The **comparative** is formed by adding **-er**:

"USA is smaller than Russia."

With adjectives ending in **vowel + consonant**, remember to **double** the final consonant before **-er**:

"Russia is bigger than USA."

The **superlative** is formed by adding **the** at the start and **-est** at the end:

"South Sudan is the newest country."

With adjectives ending in **vowel + consonant**, remember to **double** the final consonant before **-est**:

"Russia is the biggest country in the world."

Adjectives Ending -y: easy, funny, scary etc.

The **comparative** is formed by changing **-y** to **-ier**:

"Spanish is easier than Japanese."

The **superlative** is formed by changing **-y** to **-iest** and using **the** at the start:

"Ricky Gervais is the funniest man ever."

Longer Adjectives: difficult, intelligent, careful

The **comparative** is formed by using **more**:

"I am more intelligent than my brother."

The **superlative** is formed by adding **the most** at the start:

"I am the most intelligent in this class."

Exceptions: good, bad, far

good -> better, the best

bad -> worse, the worst

far -> further, the furthest

More and more/smaller and smaller

We often use *more and more + adjective*, or *adjective -er and adjective -er* to emphasize an increase or decrease in something:

"I am getting more and more tired."

"This problem is getting bigger and bigger."

Speaking

Read the statements below and note if you agree or disagree with them. If you disagree change the sentence so that you do agree with it, you may also need to make grammatical changes.

"A faster car is a better car."

"The safest, most comfortable way to get to work is to use public transport."

"The worst thing to happen to this planet is the invention of the motor car."

"The world would be a better place if everyone drove a smaller car."

"Traffic is becoming more and more problematic in my city."

"It is much more dangerous now to cycle to work."

"Public transport is getting more and more expensive."

"I would cycle to work if it was easier."

"Driving is one of the most boring things in the world!"

"Driving a car is easier than ever before."