

Live Lesson Notes

The Virtual World

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What you will learn

1. Virtual activities
2. Grammar of Comparisons
3. Listening skills
4. Idioms

Some useful Links

Read this lesson online here

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/ielts-speaking-topic-lesson-virtual-world-online/>

Try **chatting** to a **digital human**

<https://digitalhumans.com/digital-einstein/>

A great podcast about our **Digit Human** lives

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01n7094/episodes/downloads>

Improve your Pronunciation for IELTS with this app - ELSA

<http://bit.ly/ElsaxEnglishSpeakingSuccess>

An exclusive offer for my students from ELSA:

<https://elsaspeak.com/inf/englishspeakingssuccess/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiVm8XcbwS8-pcDEa5IFXIA>

Introduction

What can we do in the virtual world?

Here are some of the common activities we do online.

- Online gaming
- Meeting people
- Online shopping
- Reading blogs
- Online learning
- Doing research
- Buying and selling stocks
- Sending emails
- Watching films and series
- Listening to music
- Reading books

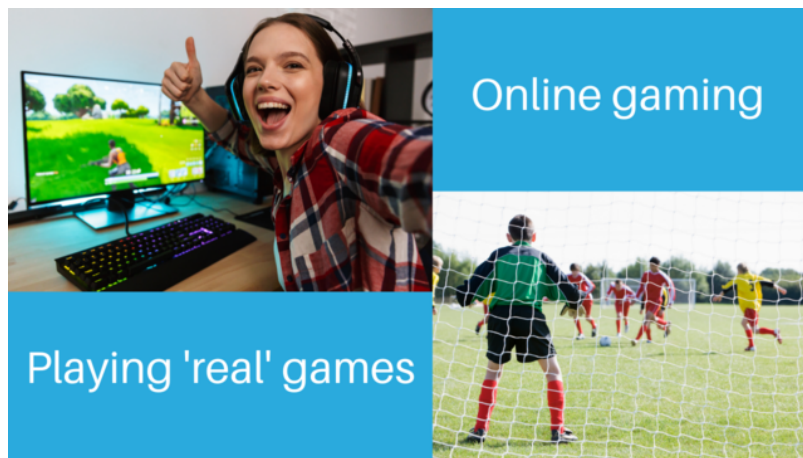
What do you do in the virtual world?

IELTS Grammar: Comparisons

There are many different ways to compare two things, and this is a skill you will certainly need in IELTS Speaking.

Let's have a look at some ways of doing this.

*Looking first at **comparing** online gaming with playing games in the 'real world'*



Task

Fill in the gaps below, using one word for each line.

1. Playing games online is _____ than playing face to face
2. Playing games online is _____ _____ than playing face to face
3. Playing games online is _____ _____ _____ than playing face to face

Answers below:

Answers

1. *Playing games online is **better** than playing face to face*

Better / quicker / lonelier

*Good - **better***

*Quick - **quicker***

*Lonely - **lonelier***

2. *Playing games online is **more expensive** than playing face to face*

***More** expensive / exciting / engaging*

2. *Playing games online is **much better** than playing face to face*

much better / far better / way better /

3. *Playing games online is **much more expensive** than playing face to face*

much more expensive / far more expensive / way more expensive

Explanation

Comparing using Short Adjectives:

Adjective + _____ er

long + er = longer

Notice:

1. Some adjectives are irregular (e.g. good = better, bad = worse)
2. Some one syllable adjectives double the last letter (e.g big = bigger, hot = hotter)
3. If an adjective ends in 'y' you must change it to 'i' (e.g. lonely = lonelier)

More examples:

Bigger / better / longer / quicker / faster

Comparing using Longer adjectives:

more + Adjective

More + expensive = more expensive

Making Emphasis

It's **far/way/much** better THAN

It's **far/way/much** more expensive THAN....

*We can also use 'prefer' when making comparisons, but notice the preposition is '**to**' not '**than**'.*

A is preferable **to** B

I prefer A **to** B

So we can say;

Fish is **preferable to** meat because it is healthier

OR

Fish is **healthier than** meat

Real shopping versus Online shopping

First read the script below and see if you can guess the missing words. Then, watch the video and try to fill in the gaps.

Answers at bottom of PDF

SCRIPT

For me online shopping and face to face shopping are world's [1] _____.

I actually love to shop online because I can access almost anything I want with a [2] _____ of a button. It's a breeze to search for items and much more convenient than going to a shop. You know I can do it all from the [3] _____ of my home.

I don't have to worry about the [4] _____ of travelling to a shopping mall, going around busy shops, and waiting in queues.

That said, I recognise there is always a bit of a security risk, vis a vis using online [5]_____. Sometimes online sites are [6] _____ and credit card information is stolen, but I think most established stores have trustworthy, online security systems.

Some say, they are actually [7] _____ safer than real shops

I guess the one thing I do prefer to buy in a brick and [8] _____ shop is clothes. I need to feel the material, see the quality and try them on to check the size.

By and large, I am [9] _____ more at home shopping from home!

IELTS Vocabulary: The Virtual World

Here is some essential vocabulary you can start using to talk about this topic of the virtual world.

Go/get online

Online spaces

Online community

Online trolls = *someone who attacks you or upsets you on the Internet*

Cyberbullying = *attacking and insulting people online*

Virtual reality = *a computer-generated environment with objects that appear to be real*

Virtual headset = *special headset with a pair of glasses used to see a virtual world*

Augmented reality = *when we superimpose virtual objects onto our vision of reality*

Remote working = *working from home*

Idioms to talk about The Virtual World

The following idiomatic expressions can be used to talk about the virtual world

These all mean they are very different

They're **poles apart**

They're **worlds apart**

It's a **different ball game**

It's a **far cry from....**

Buying online is a **pain in the neck** (=not enjoyable)

It's **easier said than done** (=not as easy as you think)

ANSWERS:

1. Fill the gaps

For me online shopping and face to face shopping are world's [1] apart.

I actually love to shop online because I can access almost anything I want with a [2] click of a button. It's a breeze to search for items and much more convenient than going to a shop. You know I can do it all from the [3] comfort of my home.

I don't have to worry about the [4] hassle of travelling to a shopping mall, going around busy shops, and waiting in queues.

That said, I recognise there is always a bit of a security risk, vis a vis using online [5] payments. Sometimes online sites are [6] hacked and credit card information is stolen, but I think most established stores have trustworthy, online security systems.

Some say, they are actually [7] way safer than real shops

I guess the one thing I do prefer to buy in a brick and [8] mortar shop is clothes. I need to feel the material, see the quality and try them on to check the size.

By and large, I am [9] much more at home shopping from home!