

Language of Comparison for IELTS Academic Task 1

Teachers Notes

Aims:

- Improve flexibility with the language of comparison that is used for IELTS writing task 1 in graphs, tables and pie charts

Instructions:

1. Get the students into pairs or groups and give them the handout.
2. Explain to the students that there is one thing wrong with the comparison made in each sentence.
3. Emphasise that the errors are not grammar errors but mistakes with using the wrong language of comparison e.g. '*more than*' is used when it should be '*less than*'.
4. Once completed, put some pairs / groups together and get them to discuss their answers and work out why there may be differences in what they chose.
5. Go through the answers.

Practicing Language of Comparison for Graphs and Tables

In some of the sentences below, the comparison made is wrong. Find the errors and correct them.

Country	Food/Drinks/ Tobacco	Clothing/ Footwear	Leisure/ Education
Ireland	28.91%	6.43%	2.21%
Italy	16.36%	9.00%	3.20%
Spain	18.80%	6.51%	1.98%
Sweden	15.77%	5.40%	3.22%
Turkey	32.14%	6.63%	4.35%

1. The percentage of consumer spending on food, drinks and tobacco was significantly lower in Turkey (32.14%) and Ireland (29%) than the other three countries.
2. The country with the highest number of national consumption on leisure and education was Turkey, at 4.35%.
3. The Swedes spent approximately twice as much on food, drinks and tobacco, as they did on clothing and footwear.
4. The percentage of consumer spending on clothing and footwear in Ireland, Spain and Turkey was different.
5. The proportion of money spent on leisure and education in Spain stood at just over 2%.
6. The country with the lowest percentage of national consumer expenditure on food, drinks and tobacco, and clothing and footwear, was Sweden, at 5.40% and 15.77% respectively.
7. Italy had the second lowest percentage of consumer spending on food, drinks and tobacco, at 16.36%, but the highest percentage of spending on clothing and footwear, at approximately 9%.

Answers

1. Consumer spending on food, drinks and tobacco was significantly **higher** in Turkey (32.14%) and Ireland (29%) than the other three countries..
2. The country with the highest **proportion / percentage** of national consumption on leisure and education was Turkey, at 4.35%.
3. The Swedes spent approximately **three times** as much on food, drinks and tobacco, as they did on clothing and footwear.
4. The percentage of consumer spending on clothing and footwear in Ireland, Spain and Turkey was **similar**.
5. The proportion of money spent on leisure and education in Spain stood at just **under / below 2%**.
6. The country with the lowest percentage of national consumer expenditure on food, drinks and tobacco, and clothing and footwear, was Sweden, at **15.77% and 5.40%** respectively**.
7. Italy had the second lowest percentage of consumer spending on food, drinks and tobacco, at 16.36%, but the highest percentage of spending on clothing and footwear, at **exactly (or just delete 'approximately)** 9%.

***'respectively' is used to show that something is in the order already mentioned. It is used when enumerating two or more items or facts that refer back to a previous statement. So the percentages must be the same order as the items they refer to i.e. food, drinks and tobacco (15.77%), and then clothing and footwear (5.40%).*