

Vocabulary practice

- 1 Do we normally use these adjectives to describe people, things or both? Tick (✓) the correct column. All the adjectives are in the text.

	people	things
competitive	✓	-
good		
old		
optimistic		
quiet		
rich		
special		
strange		

- 2 Complete the sentences with some of the adjectives in Exercise 1. In some sentences more than one adjective is possible.

- 1 Usain Bolt always wants to win – he’s very _____.
- 2 The United States is a _____ country but it has some poor people too.
- 3 Our village is very small and _____ – it’s not very exciting.
- 4 Jack doesn’t talk very much. He’s a very _____ person.
- 5 I can’t explain the film – it was a very _____ story.
- 6 Suzanne expects to pass her driving test. She’s feeling _____.

Grammar practice

3 Complete these sentences with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives. All the adjectives are in the text.

- 1 China has the _____ population in the world. (big)
- 2 I think my town is the _____ place to live. (good)
- 3 I'm _____ now because I have a good job. (rich)
- 4 It's _____ in the countryside than in a city. (quiet)
- 5 The children are _____ at the weekend than on a school day. (happy)
- 6 The _____ city is 50 kilometres away. (near)
- 7 The _____ woman in the world lives in this town. (old)
- 8 This is the _____ place on Earth. (strange)

4 The writer of the text sometimes uses the present or present perfect tense to describe his visit to Fuling. Read this paragraph again and change the verbs in bold to the past simple or past perfect simple form.

During my return visit, about 15 students **come** back to Fuling to meet me. They **tell** me about their classmates who **have left** Fuling. One is a Communist Party official in Tibet, another started a taxi company and became a millionaire. One woman presented a radio show for years. My old students **are** interested in analysing their society. One, who gave himself the English name of Mo Money **says**, 'Life is competitive. I think this is a special stage for China. In the past we criticised capitalist America. But now we are in a similar situation.' Another, Emily, **tells** me about her cousin who **has become** richer, but not happier.