


Lesson 4. The longest, the highest, the deepest

1a. The world is full of wonders. How well do you know it? Which is ...

- 1) the biggest island in the world?
a) Australia. b) Greenland. c) Great Britain.
- 2) the longest river in the world?
a) The Amazon. b) The Yangtze ['jæŋktsi] River. c) The Nile [naɪl].
- 3) the widest river in the world?
a) The Amazon. b) The Mississippi. c) The Irtysh.
- 4) the biggest lake in the world?
a) Lake Superior [su'piəriə]. b) Lake Baikal. c) The Caspian Sea.
- 5) the deepest lake in the world?
a) Lake Baikal. b) Lake Tanganyika (Africa). c) The Caspian Sea.
- 6) the longest mountain range in the world?
a) The Alps. b) The Andes ['ændi:z]. c) The Urals ['juərəlz].
- 7) the highest peak in the world?
a) K2. b) Everest ['evərɪst]. c) Kilimanjaro [kɪlɪmən'dʒɑ:rəʊ].

1b.   Listen and check your guesses.

2.    Make a web page about UK's extremes. First listen, read and answer: Which of the facts are the most surprising for you?

We can hardly (едва ли) find great distances ['distənsɪz] in the UK, as it is an island country. It is small, lovely, cosy, varied and extremely attractive. It is full of beauty.

Compare it with the world's geography. The largest of the British Isles – Great Britain – is about 230,000 sq km. The world's largest island Greenland is 2,176,000 sq km. It means that Greenland is almost ten times **as large as** Great Britain. The longest mountain range – the Andes – is 9,000 km long. It is sixty times **as long as** the Cambrian Mountains in Wales, which are 150 km long.





The rivers in Britain are not very long either. But of course they are **not so short as** the Haolai [ˌhaʊəˈlɑɪ] River in China and they are **not as narrow as** this river. The Haolai River is almost twenty times **shorter than** the Thames. The total (полная) *length* of the Haolai River is about 17 km and its average *depth* is about 50 centimetres. Usually, it is a bit more than 10 cm wide. The narrowest part is only a few centimetres. You can put a book on it as a bridge. Therefore it is also called the Book Bridge River. Experts are surprised that this narrow river is like (как) any natural river. They also proved (доказали) that the Haolai River has been flowing (течет) for more than 10,000 years.

But none of the UK's rivers can compare with such a huge river as the Amazon. It is almost (почти) **as long as** the Nile. But the second longest river in the world is the widest. Many kilometers from its mouth the Amazon can be as wide as 11 kilometres. During the wet season, parts of the Amazon are more than 40 kilometres in *width*. At the place where it meets the Atlantic, it is as wide as 80 km. Because of its huge size, it is sometimes called the River Sea. Nowhere is the Amazon crossed by bridges. This is not because of its huge width, but because most of the river flows through tropical rainforest, where there are few roads and even fewer cities, so there is no need for crossings.



What do the words in italics mean?

adjective – noun

deep (глубокий) – depth (глубина)

long – length

wide – width

strong – strength



Grammar focus: *Comparative sentences*

A.

The Thames (1) is **twenty times as long as** the Haolai River (2).
(1) is **20 times longer than** (2) = (2) is **20 times shorter than** (1)

B.

+ The Amazon is almost **as long as** the Nile.

as (adj) as = the same as

– The UK rivers (1) are **not as short as** / **not so short as** the Haolai River (2).

not so (adj) as / not as (adj) as = not the same as

? Is the Amazon **as long as** the Nile?

as (adj) as = the same as

See “Grammar reference” on page 253.

3. 👤👤 How does the UK compare with the rest of the world? Look at the table and compare the longest rivers in the world, in Belarus and in the UK.

The longest rivers (kilometres)

in the world	the Nile 6,650	the Amazon 6,400	the Yangtze 6,300
in the UK	the River Severn ['sevn] 354	the River Thames [temz] 346	the River Trent 297
in Belarus	the River Dnepr 690	the River Berezina 613	the River Pripyat 495




The longest rivers in the UK and in Belarus are **not as (so) long as** the longest rivers in the world.

The Nile is almost **19 times longer than** the Severn. The Nile is almost **10 times as long as** the Dnepr. The Amazon is **18 times longer than** the Thames.

The Amazon is **10 times as long as / longer than** the Berezina River. (= The Berezina River is almost **10 times shorter than** the Amazon.)

The Yangtze is 21 times ... the River Trent. The Yangtze is almost 13 times ... the River Pripyat.

The longest Belarusian river is almost **twice (= two times) as long as / longer than** the UK's longest river.

4a.    Student A, get card A; student B, get card B. Ask each other for the missing information. Fill in your cards.

Model. What's the area of ... / How large is ... ?

4b. Look and compare the largest lakes in the UK and the rest of the world.



40.3 – forty point three




The largest lakes (square kilometres)

in the world	The Caspian Sea (Kazakhstan)	Lake Superior (the US – Canada)	Lake Victoria (Africa)
in the UK	Lough ([lɒx] = lake) Neagh [nei] (Northern Ireland)	Lower Lough Erne [3n] (Northern Ireland)	Loch ([lɒx] / [lɒk]) Lomond ['ləʊmənd] (Scotland)
in Belarus	Lake Naroch (Minsk region)	Lake Osveya (Vitebsk region)	Lake Chervonaye (Gomel region)

HELP BOX

Lakes in Belarus and in the UK aren't nearly **as (so) large** as ...

The Caspian Sea is ... **times as large as / larger than** ...

5a.    Print out a card or copy the table in your exercise books. Listen and write the figures.



The highest peaks (metres)

in the world	Mount Everest (the Himalayas [ˌhɪməˈleɪəz]) —	K2 (the Himalayas) —	Kanchenjunga (the Himalayas) —
in the UK	Ben Nevis [ˌbenˈneɪvɪs] (Scotland) —	Snowdon [ˈsnəʊdən] (the Cambrian Mountains, Wales) —	Scafel Pike [ˌskɔːfelˈpaɪk] (the Cumbrian Mountains, England) —

5b. Look, compare and write about the highest peaks in the UK and the rest of the world.

HELP BOX

Mountains in the UK aren't **as (so) high** as the highest mountains in the world.

Mount Everest is ... **times as high as** ...

6.  Write a text for the web page about the UK's extremes (10–12 sentences).