The materials in this unit include a teacher manual and student book for an 18-day English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) unit in measurement and comparisons. The teacher manual contains a list of instructional objectives for the unit, daily lesson plans, vocabulary chart, metric conversion table, a series of class activities, signs for labeling activity stations in the classroom, and instructions for an ancillary activity in making comparisons. The student book contains visual aids, worksheets, and exercises. (MSE) (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse on Literacy Education)
Measuring and Comparing

A Content-Based ESL Unit
Measuring and Comparing
A Content-Based ESL Unit

By: Connie Greenleaf, MATESL
In Collaboration with: Mary Kay Gee,
Project Director, National Workplace Literacy Program
Measuring and Comparing is a content-based ESL unit written to meet the tandem goals of teaching students the essential vocabulary and grammar of measuring and comparing and practicing oral and written English skills. The unit covers a four week time period, assuming a two hour class period. The specific objectives for each activity in the unit are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity #</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LEARN VOCABULARY AND CONCEPT OF LENGTH AND WIDTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PRACTICE CONVERSION OF INCHES AND CENTIMETERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LEARN VOCABULARY AND CONCEPT OF HEIGHT and MEASURE BODY PARTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>INTERVIEW CLASSMATES</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>ENTER INFORMATION INTO DATABASES</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>GENERATE COMPLETE SENTENCES FROM DATABASE</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>GENERATE COMPLETE SENTENCES FROM DATABASE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>PRACTICE GRAMMAR OF COMPARING: GOOD, BETTER, and BEST</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>ACQUIRE AND PRACTICE VOCABULARY OF WEIGHT</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>ACQUIRE AND PRACTICE VOCABULARY OF SPEED</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>CLASSROOM OLYMPICS</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>CLASSROOM OLYMPICS</td>
</tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>ASSESSMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ASKING QUESTIONS: GIVING A SURVEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>GIVING RESPONSES:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>WRITING A SHORT PARAGRAPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>IMPROVING SHORT, REPETITIVE SENTENCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>EDITING SIMPLE PARAGRAPHS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Measuring and Comparing document contains 2 parts, daily lesson plans for the unit, and a student booklet to be used with the unit. Throughout the daily lesson plans the student booklet is referred to as SB, and there are additional procedural notes for the teacher in brackets. ([ ]).
Day 1: LEARN VOCABULARY AND CONCEPT OF LENGTH AND WIDTH
1. Class looks at graphics on page 1 of SB. Teacher reads vocabulary and discusses.
2. Students, in pairs, label the length and width of 6 objects in the classroom using strips of post-its. Teacher models by taking a post-it strip, walking to an object, saying the word, then writing the word on the post-it and putting the post-it on the length or width of the object.
3. Class walks around room together and discusses width and length: Make generalization that length is the longer one.
4. Students measure objects from #2 and record on page 2 of SB.
5. HOMEWORK #1: Repeat above with home objects (SB p.3).

Day 2: PRACTICE CONVERSION OF INCHES AND CENTIMETERS
1. Class discusses homework from Day 1. Students share pictures of what they measured and use complete sentences to tell the dimensions of the length and width of what they measured.
2. Class reviews terms width and length.
3. Students turn to SB page 4. Teacher uses transparency copy of completed chart (below) to discuss terms for length and width. Teacher introduces vocabulary of rulers, meter stick, and tape measure by showing objects. Students copy terms into empty squares on SB page 4 as teacher discusses and explains.
4. Teacher introduces inches versus centimeters. Teacher shows a ruler with both units and class discusses when they have used both.
5. Teacher explains and illustrates idea of changing one unit for the other; conversion. Teacher shows transparency of conversion table and formulas (below).
5. SB Page 5 to practice conversion. Students choose objects to measure in the classroom and work conversion formulas to complete page 5.
6. Class shares results.
7. HOMEWORK #2: SB #6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measuring Word</th>
<th>What does it mean?</th>
<th>THINGS WE MEASURE WITH</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>length</td>
<td>how long or short something is</td>
<td>• ruler&lt;br&gt;• meter stick&lt;br&gt;• tape measure</td>
<td>• centimeters&lt;br&gt;• inches&lt;br&gt;• feet&lt;br&gt;• meters&lt;br&gt;• miles&lt;br&gt;• kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>width</td>
<td>how wide or narrow something is</td>
<td>• ruler&lt;br&gt;• meter stick&lt;br&gt;• tape measure</td>
<td>• centimeters&lt;br&gt;• inches&lt;br&gt;• feet&lt;br&gt;• meters&lt;br&gt;• miles&lt;br&gt;• kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>height</td>
<td>how tall or short someone is</td>
<td>• ruler&lt;br&gt;• meter stick&lt;br&gt;• tape measure</td>
<td>• centimeters&lt;br&gt;• inches&lt;br&gt;• feet&lt;br&gt;• meters&lt;br&gt;• miles&lt;br&gt;• kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight</td>
<td>how heavy or light something is</td>
<td>• scale</td>
<td>• pounds&lt;br&gt;• grams&lt;br&gt;• kilograms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speed</td>
<td>how fast or slow something moves</td>
<td>• watch&lt;br&gt;• clock&lt;br&gt;• stop watch</td>
<td>• seconds&lt;br&gt;• minutes&lt;br&gt;• hours&lt;br&gt;• days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Converting Metric Units to English Units

Conversion Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>Conversion Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 inch</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>2.54 centimeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 centimeter</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>0.3937 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 foot</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>0.3048 meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 meter</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>3.2808 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 yard</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>0.914 meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 meter</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>1.0936 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 mile</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>1.609 kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kilometer</td>
<td>equals</td>
<td>0.621 mile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversion Formula:
To convert metric units to customary or customary to metric, use the following formula:

- **Metric to Customary:**
  Metric Unit \( \times \) Conversion Number = Customary Unit

  **Example:** 12 inches \( \times \) 2.54 (conversion number) = 30.48 centimeters

- **Customary to Metric:**
  Customary Unit \( \times \) Conversion Number = Metric Unit

  **Example:** 6 centimeters \( \times \) 0.3937 (conversion number) = 2.36

*See Conversion Table above*
Day 3: LEARN VOCABULARY AND CONCEPT OF HEIGHT and MEASURE BODY PARTS
1. Discuss homework from Day 2.
2. Introduce HEIGHT. Teacher uses chart from Day 2 and repeats procedure for showing scales, discussing vocabulary on chart, and asking students to complete HEIGHT section of empty table on SB page 4.
3. Students measure teacher for height, then for all body parts. Class decides on standard places to begin and end measurements. Record measurements on OHP with sheet like the one on SB page 7.
4. Students divide into pairs and measure each other. Record on SB p.7.

Day 4: INTERVIEW CLASSMATES
1. Teacher models interviewing students to get information to complete chart on SB p. 8.
2. Students interview each other and complete their charts on SB p. 8. They use phrases:
   "How long is your ____?"  "How wide is your ______?"

Day 5: ENTER INFORMATION INTO DATABASES
1. Teacher models how students can use charts from Day 4 to enter information into a database on a computer. Teacher shows students how to access a field, enter the data, and save the data.
2. Students use completed charts from Day 4 to insert data into databases.
   [NOTE: This activity can be omitted if teachers do not have access to a computer lab environment where students can work alone or in pairs to enter the information. The activity requires that the instructor generate a database with fields that are identical to the chart on SB p. 8 so that students can enter the information.]

Day 6 and 7: GENERATE COMPLETE SENTENCES FROM DATABASE
1. Teacher distributes copies of database. [Teacher needs to print copies of completed databases from Day 5 for distribution.]
2. Teacher asks: "Whose nose is longer, Juan's or Jin Hee's?"
3. Students respond, teacher writes sentences of answer on OHP.
4. In pairs, students write 10 or more true sentences about the database on page 9 of SB.
Day 7:
1. Students share their sentences from Day 6 with class. Class edits sentences as needed.
2. Homework #3: (SB p. 10)

Day 8: PRACTICE GRAMMAR OF COMPARING: GOOD, BETTER, and BEST
1. Discuss and share homework from Day 7.
2. Teacher asks: How far do you think I can step?
3. Students record prediction on SB page 11. Teacher steps, students record.
4. Teacher introduces GOOD BETTER and BEST.
5. Teacher models writing about her/his steps on OHP; students copy onto SB p. 11.
6. Teacher asks students to predict how far THEY can step, and record on SB p. 11.
7. With partners students step, measure, and record all 3 trials.
8. Students individually write complete sentences about what they did.

Day 9: ACQUIRE AND PRACTICE VOCABULARY OF WEIGHT
1. Teacher shows balance scale and asks for name of object (SCALE).
2. What do we use it for? To WEIGH things.
3. What is weight? How heavy or light something is. Teacher asks students to fill in weight terms chart on page 4 of SB.
4. Teacher chooses 2 things in the room and asks, Which one do you think is heavier? (Teach PREDICT: to guess smartly!)
5. Teacher records prediction on OHP, then actually weighs objects and compares predictions to actuality.
6. Students repeat activity with new objects in the room and record both predictions and actual weights on chalkboard so they can discuss.
7. Students repeat activity with a set of boxes. [Before class teacher fills 3 small boxes with different weighted items such as cotton balls, pencils, and paper, etc. Teacher covers or colors the boxes purple, blue, and black. Items need to be somewhat close to each other in weight or the predicting is too easy.]
8. Teacher first passes each box around the room one by one so students can predict which is heavier. Complete SB #12.
Day 10: ACQUIRE AND PRACTICE VOCABULARY OF SPEED
1. Teacher introduces fast and slow by running, walking at different speeds.
2. Teacher says SPEED is how slow or fast something moves. Teacher asks how we measure speed. Class volunteers ideas.
3. Teacher asks what units we record speed in.
4. Class fills in speed vocabulary on chart on SB p. 4.
5. Teacher demonstrates cotton ball on a spoon relay, asks a student to record results with a stop watch.
6. Students record trials and answer questions on SB # 13.

Day 11 and 12: CLASSROOM OLYMPICS
1. Students predict and participate in activities and record data on their charts for classroom Olympics. [Directions to activities and station directions for Speed Trial follow] SB #14
PAPER STRAW JAVELIN THROW

1. Estimate the distance (in cm) that you think you can throw the "javelin." Record.

2. Place feet on starting line. Throw "javelin." (One throw only.)

3. Measure distance from starting line to the position of the "javelin." Record on score sheet.

COTTON BALL SHOT PUT

1. Estimate the distance (in cm) that you think you can throw the "shot." Record.

2. Place feet on starting line. Throw the "cotton ball shot." (One throw only.) Measure distance from starting line to the position of the cotton ball. Record.
1. Estimate (in grams) the amount of marbles you can grab in your right hand. Record.

2. With right hand only, grab a fistful of marbles from the container. Weigh on a balance scale. Record.
Station #1:

1. Pick up a pencil.
2. Balance it on your index finger.
3. Walk to Station #2.
Station #2:

1. Drink the cup of water.
2. Walk to Station #3.
Station #3:

1. Pick up the ball.
2. Bounce the ball 20 times.
3. Smile! You're finished!
Day 13: ASSESSMENT
1. Students write complete sentences about Olympic results in SB page 15. [They use their charts from SB p. 14 to generate sentences.]
2. Students fill in blank chart of terms on SB page 16.

Day 14: ASKING QUESTIONS: GIVING A SURVEY
1. Teacher asks students: What is the best hamburger in Chicago? Discuss.
2. Teacher explains what a SURVEY is, and they look at Best of Chicago survey on SB p. 17.
3. Class generates one more question to ask and adds as #8 of the survey.
4. Students practice asking questions with WHAT IS ...?
5. Students give each other the survey from SB p. 17.
6. Class discusses how to record responses.
7. HOMEWORK: Students are given 5 copies of the survey each and 3 days to complete it outside of class with volunteers either from the workplace or outside.

Day 15: GIVING RESPONSES: Tabulating results of survey
1. Teacher is at computer [or chalkboard], and asks for responses for each question. Teacher records.
2. Class discusses giving the survey.

Day 16: WRITING A SHORT PARAGRAPH
1. Teacher distributes copies of compilation of survey results. Class discusses.
2. Students use data gathered and write paragraph about survey results.

Day 17: IMPROVING SHORT, REPETITIVE SENTENCES
1. Teacher on computer shows some examples of students' paragraphs. [Teacher looks at writing before class and generates samples from student work to share with class.] Then teacher discusses COMBINING sentences, and having VARIETY in writing by modeling how to combine and begin some sentences differently.
2. Together class discusses various ways to combine and improve the quality of their sentences, make BETTER SENTENCES.
Day 18: EDITING SIMPLE PARAGRAPHS
1. Class reviews ways to combine and introduce information in sentences.
2. Students rewrite paragraphs from Day 17.

POSSIBLE ANCILLARY ACTIVITY:
OBJECTIVE: PRACTICE THE GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY OF COMPARING
1. Teacher shows empty chart [below] and students discuss various animals.
2. Teacher assigns partners or groups.
3. Using the CD Animals in Our World, students research the animals and complete as much of the chart as possible.
4. Using the chart, students compare animal characteristics orally.
5. Students write a short paragraph using information from the chart.
6. Students share their paragraphs with a small group. The group aides the student in editing.
## COMPARING ANIMALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tiger</th>
<th>Kangaroo</th>
<th>Dolphin</th>
<th>Gorilla</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Speed</td>
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</table>
STUDENT BOOK

Measuring and Comparing

A Content-Based ESL Unit

1997 Connie Greenleaf for College of Lake County
Measuring and Comparing
Length and Width

Length

Width

1993

1997 Connie Greenleaf for College of Lake County
WHAT IS THE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF THESE OBJECTS?

1. Name of Object: ___________________________
   Length: __________
   Width: __________

2. Name of Object: ___________________________
   Length: __________
   Width: __________

3. Name of Object: ___________________________
   Length: __________
   Width: __________

4. Name of Object: ___________________________
   Length: __________
   Width: __________

5. Name of Object: ___________________________
   Length: __________
   Width: __________

6. Name of Object: ___________________________
   Length: __________
   Width: __________
Measuring and Comparing: Homework #1

Directions:
1. Find 6 things in your home to measure.
2. Draw them below and on the other side of this paper.
3. Label the width and length of each object.
4. Measure the width and length of each thing.
5. Record the width and length of each beside the picture.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>THINGS WE MEASURE WITH</th>
<th>DEFINITION: What does it mean?</th>
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<table>
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<th>width</th>
<th>height</th>
<th>weight</th>
<th>speed</th>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of Object</td>
<td>Centimeters</td>
<td>Inches</td>
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</table>

Length: _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______
Width: _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  27
Measuring and Comparing: Homework #2

MILES and KILOMETERS

How many meters are there in a kilometer? ____________

Americans use miles to measure long distances, but most of the world uses kilometers.

How many miles are there in a kilometer? ________________
(Remember: Divide the number of kilometers by 1.6 to change to miles)

• About how many kilometers is it from downtown Chicago to your home?
  ____________

• About how many miles is it from downtown Chicago to your home?
  ____________

• About how many kilometers is it from your home to your workplace?
  ____________

• About how many miles is it from your home to your workplace?
  ____________
# Measuring My Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Width</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHOLE BODY:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EARS:</strong></td>
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<td>Length</td>
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<td>Width</td>
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<td><strong>HAND:</strong></td>
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<td>Length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Width</td>
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<td><strong>EYES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
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<td>Width</td>
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<td><strong>MOUTH:</strong></td>
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<td>Length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Width</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ARMS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THUMB:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SHOULDERS:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Width</td>
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<td><strong>LEG:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Length</td>
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<td><strong>FOOT:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Measuring Our Bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole Body</th>
<th>Eye</th>
<th>Arm</th>
<th>Leg</th>
<th>Hand</th>
<th>Ear</th>
<th>Mouth</th>
<th>Thumb</th>
<th>Shoulder</th>
<th>Foot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMPARING OUR BODIES

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 

9. 

10. 

1997 Connie Greenleaf for College of Lake County
### Measuring and Comparing: Homework #3

**Directions:**
1. Look at the database of our class’s measurements.
2. Write complete sentences to compare your measurements to other students’ measurements.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW FAR CAN YOU STEP?

Good  Better  Best

PREDICTION:  I think my teacher can step
First Step: 
Second Step: 
Third Step: 

Write 3 sentences comparing the steps using GOOD, BETTER, and BEST.

1. 

2. 

3. 

PREDICTION:  I think I can step
First Step: 
Second Step: 
Third Step: 

Write 3 sentences comparing your steps using GOOD, BETTER, and BEST.

1. 

2. 

3. 

34
**WHICH BOX IS THE HEAVIEST?**

**Prediction:** I think the _______________ box is the heaviest.

I think the _______________ box is the lightest.

What happened? How much did the boxes weigh?

Black box: _______________

Purple box: _______________

Blue box: _______________

Write complete sentences comparing the boxes.
How fast can you walk with the cotton ball on the spoon?

Trial #1: __________

Trial #2: __________

Trial #3: __________

Answer these questions:

Which trial was your fastest? ______________

Which trial was your slowest? ______________

Write complete sentences comparing your trials.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

1997 Connie Greenleaf for College of Lake County
# Class Olympics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>TRIAL # 1 Estimate</th>
<th>TRIAL # 1 Actual</th>
<th>TRIAL # 2 Estimate</th>
<th>TRIAL # 2 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed Trial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Javelin Throw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cotton Ball Throw</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marble Grab</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSESSMENT

Directions:
1. Look at the Olympics database.
2. Write complete sentences comparing the results of the Olympics.

FOR EXAMPLE: Paul was faster than Pedro in the speed trial.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 

39

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>THINGS WE MEASURE WITH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>length</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>width</td>
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<td>height</td>
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<tr>
<td>weight</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>speed</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Best Of Chicago Survey

1. Who makes the best pizza in Chicago?

2. Who has the best sports team in Chicago?

3. What is the best lake in Chicago?

4. What is the most interesting TV program in Chicago?

5. What is the most beautiful building in Chicago?

6. What is the best radio station in Chicago?

7. What is the best restaurant in Chicago?

8. ___________________________?
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