

*Take-Home Quiz for*  
***“A Matter of Comparison” & “Humor, the Stress Reliever”***  
*By Barbara Westberg*

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I. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

- 1) If a thing is \_\_\_\_\_, we know it is \_\_\_\_\_ only if we \_\_\_\_\_ it with something else (the \_\_\_\_\_ degree).
- 2) We know it is \_\_\_\_\_ only if we compare it with \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ things (the \_\_\_\_\_ degree).
- 3) When the \_\_\_\_\_ word ends in \_\_\_\_\_ (such as heavy or \_\_\_\_\_), change the *y* to *i* to add \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Do not use a \_\_\_\_\_ comparative.
- 5) If you use \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, do not use \_\_\_\_\_ or most (less/ \_\_\_\_\_).
- 6) Only in a direct \_\_\_\_\_, or in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to reveal the character's \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is there an \_\_\_\_\_ to this rule.
- 7) Some words cannot be \_\_\_\_\_. They stand alone. \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ perfect.
- 8) You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ absolute \_\_\_\_\_, but you can compare how \_\_\_\_\_ people or \_\_\_\_\_ come to having those \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9) In the \_\_\_\_\_ language, \_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_. In some cases there are \_\_\_\_\_ exceptions than \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10) “\_\_\_\_\_” are the words that are the \_\_\_\_\_ to the rule for showing degrees of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11) A touch of \_\_\_\_\_ can show the \_\_\_\_\_ his (or \_\_\_\_\_) problem from a \_\_\_\_\_ angle.
- 12) Humor can release the \_\_\_\_\_ associated with a \_\_\_\_\_ subject.
- 13) Humor does not \_\_\_\_\_ the reader, but lightly \_\_\_\_\_ his funny bone.
- 14) There are \_\_\_\_\_ basic rules for \_\_\_\_\_ humor. They are: keep it \_\_\_\_\_, and keep it \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15) Humor keeps the reader \_\_\_\_\_, makes him \_\_\_\_\_, and stimulates him to \_\_\_\_\_.

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II. Write TRUE or FALSE in the blank provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) It is never correct to use a double comparative when writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) A comparative is a comparison of things using *er* or *more/less*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) A comparison should be logical.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Humorous writing is more than telling jokes or tossing around one-liners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) When writing with humor, if you need a target, use your best friend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Humor does not evade the problem, but enables the writer to approach it from a surprising angle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7) According to William Zinsser, “Another function of the humorist is to represent himself as the victim or dunce, helpless in most situations.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Barbara Westberg said, “Humor is therapy for readers, enabling them to feel superior to the writer, or at least to identify with a fellow victim.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9) Writing humor requires skill and wisdom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10) For writers, humor is a great stress reliever.

III. In the blanks provided, write CORRECT or INCORRECT for the sentences using comparison.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) Ted is a better actor than any one in the drama club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Beth screamed louder than Joyce did.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) Jean likes ice cream better than Marty does.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Lake Eufaula is larger than any other lake in Oklahoma.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) Clark agreed that Stan's new SUV was almost perfect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) The change will make the situation worse than in the past.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7) Jean likes ice cream better than Marty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Beth screamed louder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9) Ted is a better actor than any one else in the drama club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10) Lake Eufaula is larger than any lake in Oklahoma.