


Title	Spot the 'bendy bus'!	Level: medium
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<b>Text:</b>	<p>Michiko saw one of the new articulated buses, also known as a 'bendy bus', in Fukuoka. There are three in service, and now they operate from the Noko Ferry Port early in the morning. She really wants to ride on one!</p> <p>In case you are unaware, they are elongated buses that are in two parts divided by a flexible section in the middle, hence the short, humorous name, 'bendy'. The reason for using such long buses is their larger capacity, which gives higher revenue during rush hour and greater cost savings over normal sized buses.</p>	
<b>Question for discussion:</b>	<p>Have you ever ridden on one?</p> <p>Do you seek out new experiences, whether something like this, or going to new shops or restaurants?</p>	
<b>Words and usage:</b>	<p>1, 'Hence' is another much shorter way to say 'which is the reason for'. Another example, 'the A team lost the final game, hence the sad faces'.</p> <p>2, Comparatives 'Larger', 'higher' and 'greater' are all adjective plus 'er' combinations, which say that something is different (perhaps greater or lesser) when compared to another thing.</p> <p>In this case, we are comparing the bendy bus to a normal sized bus.</p> <p>We usually replace the 'er' form with 'more' or 'less' plus adjective, where the adjective has 2 or more similar syllables in its sound. For example, 'fast' has one syllable, hence 'faster', whereas 'beautiful' has three, which is why we say 'more beautiful'.</p>	
<b>Resources:</b>	<p>Oxford Dictionaries. <a href="http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com">http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</a></p> <p>The British Council website. <a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org">https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</a></p>	
<b>Listening link:</b>	<p><a href="#">Spot the bendy bus!</a></p> 	
<b>Practice idea:</b>	<p>Look at the local English information page on the internet, and find a few events that interest you. Compare them to other events you know using the comparatives we talked about above.</p>	
<b>Quiz Me!</b>	<p>Card number A8 below is from Starter pack 1, available at <a href="http://englishbooks.jp">englishbooks.jp</a></p>	

Conversation  
card:

8

**What means of  
transport  
do you use  
most days?**

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