

UNIT 02 / 06 · LEARN & TRY

Case-based reading: comparisons and limits

Name: _____ Date: _____

Goal: Interpret counts and qualify a causal claim.

Learn

Case-based reading combines verbal information with numbers, labels or a simple table. Identify who was counted, when the count happened and what each category measures. Compare like quantities before calculating a difference. A percentage needs a stated total; a count alone is not a percentage. A rise may be described in absolute numbers or relative terms, and these statements can have different sizes. Observations support a conclusion about the observed group, but they do not automatically explain the cause. If a passage reports a sample from one school, avoid claims about all schools. Use cautious verbs such as suggests when the evidence is limited. In an answer, select the figures that establish the comparison, explain their relationship and note an important limitation when asked to evaluate the claim. Check the supporting detail carefully.

Worked example

Original case: Forty students recorded their main journey to school. September: walk 12, bicycle 8, bus 16, car 4. October: walk 14, bicycle 10, bus 14, car 2. The same forty students participated. A bicycle-parking area opened in late September; no survey asked why students changed transport.