The tomb of the pharaoh

Level: *4º E.S.O.*
Grammar: *Comparison of the adjective: Form, comparative and superlative structures / Connectors.*
Functions: *Describing and comparing people and objects / Linking ideas / Narrating events.*
Vocabulary: *Archaeology / Ancient Egypt.*
Phonetics: *The vowel sound schwa.*

This unit is based on an adventure story in two different historical periods: part one takes place in Ancient Egypt and tells the story of a fictional pharaoh, Ramhotep II, whereas the second and third part explain how his tomb is found by a group of archaeologists in the early 20th century. The plot is developed by means of dialogues and activities which introduce the main grammar, functions and pronunciation points of the unit.

The vocabulary is centred on historical events, words related to archaeology and human relationships.

This unit should be used in a linear way if it is possible, because the activities and different parts of the story are connected and explain each other. However, if you decide to use some of the exercises separately, bear in mind that the first part is mainly centred on the comparative structures.

Each of the three parts, is made up of five screens, the first of which is a part of the main story, and the second a comprehension or vocabulary exercise on the text.

You can move into any part of the unit easily by using the menu, which is accessible from any activity.

Students may access several screens with the essential grammar contents through a grammar menu which appears by clicking the “Help" button. The grammar screens and the instructions for each exercise (“Task” button) are both in English and Spanish.

Please remind your students to read the section "Icon explanation" in the introductory screen, and the task button before they start any exercises when they need a more detailed description of the activity, although some of the screens include instructions.

This is the structure of the unit:

INTRODUCTORY SCREEN

Through this screen you can access the menu, the credits screen, this document and the explanation of the use of the icons. If you want to start the unit click the “Start” button.

BASIC VOCABULARY

This screen introduces some words which will be recurrent in the lesson and may have pronunciation or meaning difficulties. The students can click on each picture to listen to the correct pronunciation.

PART 1

1. Reading - The tomb of the pharaoh (Part 1): The text tells the story of pharaoh Ramhotep II. As in all the texts, students can click the Audio button to listen to a particular page, the “Play all” button to listen to all the pages in order, and the arrows to go to another page.

2. Reading Comprehension: This is a multiple choice exercise designed to check the comprehension of the previous text. When students click an answer, the feedback will appear in the square.

3. Comparison - Form of the adjective: In this exercise students must fill in the table with the missing forms of the adjectives (positive, comparative and superlative). Once they finish, they can check their answers, and see the correct ones.

4. Comparative structures - Complete the text: This exercise consists of a series of pictures with objects or people to compare, and the students must fill in parts of the sentences describing them using different comparative or superlative structures of three adjectives. As usual, they can click the show answers button to see the correct answers.

5. Comparative structures - Translate hieroglyphs: In this exercise, students must “translate” pictures that are meant as a “hieroglyph” conversation where the pharaoh and his counsellor compare different things. The students must rewrite the pictures as sentences using the vocabulary and ideas which they can read when they place the cursor on the pictures.

PART 2

6. Reading - The tomb of the pharaoh (Part 2): This is the second part of the story, with the same buttons and functionality as in the first part.

7. Vocabulary - Find synonyms: In this exercise students are given some words and definitions and they must find a synonym for them in the previous text which is accessible through the “Show text” button.

8. Listening comprehension - Help the warriors: In this listening exercise, students must click on the numbers and they will listen to some instructions about how to place the different objects surrounding the warriors. The warriors and the objects are defined using adjectives in the comparative and superlative form. They can check their answers when they have finished, and use the "Clear" button to start the exercise again.

9. Connectors - Choose the correct connector: This is a multiple choice exercise. There are five sentences with a blank and students must choose the correct connector.

10. Connectors - Complete the text: This is also an exercise about the use of connectors, but now students are given a complete text (which is a continuation of the second part of the story) and they must complete it with the eight connectors given in the box.

PART 3

11. Reading - The tomb of the pharaoh (Part 3): This is the last part of the story, with the conclusion of the adventure.

12. Vocabulary - Mummification: This exercise is a version of the classical "Hangman". Students are given six definitions and they must guess the word that corresponds to that definition. When they click on a correct letter it will appear in its position in the word. If the letter is not part of the word, the man in the picture will start the "mummification" process. If they click six wrong letters the man will turn into a mummy. Remind your students that there may be compound words, so that the hyphen or the space button may be necessary.

13. Phonetics - the vowel sound schwa: This exercise is made up of two different parts. In the first part, students must listen to the sentences (they must click the audio symbol for that) and click on the eight words that contain the vowel sound schwa. When they have found all eight words, they will appear in a table so that they can listen to them individually, and a red button appears that will open the graphic interface of the "Malted sound recorder". They must now listen to the words and record them trying to reproduce the pronunciation as accurately as possible.

14. Record sentences: In this exercise the students must repeat and record some sentences. They can click on them to listen to the original voice, and then record them with their own voices. After that, they can hear their recording with the "Play" button.
In this exercise the last recording made of each sentence will be kept so that they can be accessed later. As the recording system is different from the previous exercise, it is convenient to try the record button first: the recording starts when you click the button and it will go on until you click it again; the words "start" and "stop" appear beside the button to help you.

15. Newspaper article: In this final exercise students read a newspaper article that tells about the discovery of the tomb. To see an enlarged image of the newspaper, they must click on the miniature. When they have read the article they must answer some questions about it. The correct answers, mixed with some distractors, are given below the questions.

ENDING

The Tomb of the Pharaoh - Answer key

PART 1

2. Reading Comprehension: 1. a 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. c

3. Comparison - Form of the adjective:

young – younger – the youngest
hot – hotter – the hottest
difficult – more difficult – the most difficult
ugly – uglier – the ugliest
frequent – more frequent – the most frequent
bad – worse – the worst
large – larger – the largest
comfortable – more comfortable – the most comfortable
cold – colder – the coldest
worthy – worthier – the worthiest
thin – thinner – the thinnest
careful – more careful – the most careful

4. Comparative structures - Complete the text:

1. Akheton's pyramid *is not as high as* Ramsetep's, but it *is higher than* Snefru's. Ramsetep's pyramid *is the highest* of the three.

2. Queen Nefer *is the most beautiful* of the Egyptian queens. Thefris *is not as beautiful as* Nefer, but she *is more beautiful than* Ahmosis.

3. Menhotep's crown *is not as big as* Seti's, but it *is bigger than* Thamset's. Seti's crown *is the biggest* of them.

5. Comparative structures - Translate hieroglyphs:

My sarcophagus is *not as rich as* Akheton's.
But your sarcophagus is *more colourful than* Akheton's.
My dancers *are not as slim as* Menhotep's.
But they *are prettier than* Menhotep's.
My throne *is not as magnificent as* Thamset's.
But it *is more comfortable than* Thamset's.

PART 2

7. Vocabulary - Find synonyms:

1. beautiful 2. magnifying glass 3. experienced 4. archaeologist
5. used to 6. expert 7. tomb 8. looking for

9. Connectors - Choose the correct connector:

1. when 2. too 3. so 4. because 5. but

10. Connectors - Complete the text:

and / When / too / also / but / because / Then / so

PART 3

12. Vocabulary - Mummification:

1. desert 2. wealthy 3. professor 4. magnifying glass 5. shine

13. Phonetics - the vowel sound schwa:

the / doctor / better / to / was / older / than / sister

15. Newspaper article:

1. April, 1923 2. September, 1922 3. Ibrahim Ahmud 4. Lord Carnaby
5. a necklace with gems 6. a stone with an eagle

The Tomb of the Pharaoh - Audio scripts

PART 1

1. Reading - The tomb of the pharaoh (Part 1):

Around the year 1400 BC, Egypt, the sacred land of Osiris and Anubis, was under the rule of Ramhotep II, the great pharaoh. He succeeded his father, Ramhotep I, when he was only ten years old. He was a spoiled child and he did what he wanted.

When his father, Ramhotep I, was the pharaoh, he prayed to the gods and the Nile flooded the lands and the harvests were good and the farmers were happy. But Ramhotep II was very ambitious. He wanted to be richer, wiser, and, above all, more famous than any other pharaoh, so he prayed to the gods three times in a year. That year the farmers harvested frogs instead of wheat, and they were not very happy.

When he was 28 years old he ordered his best architects to build his tomb and pyramid. The chief architect, Imoses, was always complaining.
Imoses: We need more time, the previous pharaoh started to build his pyramid when he was much younger, only fifteen years old. We can't work faster.
Builder: Don't worry! We, builders, never finish in time, and that will not change in the future.

Because of his ambition, Ramhotep II always chose the richest clothes and jewels. He wore gold everywhere, in his chariot, his clothes and even his sandals. That was why he died young: during a lion hunt, Ramhotep wore his best clothes, all covered in gold. But he was slower and heavier than the lion. That day the lion had the most elegant meal of his life.

As he died young, his was a truncated pyramid. There was not enough time to finish it. Ramhotep II had the richest burial ceremony in the history of Egypt. Everybody knew his sarcophagus was the most sumptuous, his tomb the largest, and its location the most secret, because nobody knew where the real tomb was except the pharaoh's faithful builders.

That was how the tomb's entrance was covered with sand, first by the hands of the workers, then by the desert.
And there it stayed, in perfect peace, for more than 3000 years.
Until one day .....

PART 2

6. Reading - The tomb of the pharaoh (Part 2):

London, 1919
Young professor Howard Jones, an expert archaeologist, has got an appointment with Francis Fitzpatrick, Lord Carnaby, a famous patron and one of the wealthiest collectors of Ancient Egypt Art. He is waiting at the library, when he sees a beautiful terra-cotta statue of a cat. Jones is studying the cat when Lord Carnaby comes in.

Lord Carnaby: Magnificent, isn't it, professor Jones?
Jones: Oh! Good evening, lord Carnaby. Pleased to meet you. This statue is one of the most interesting pieces I have seen from this period. Ramhotep I's reign, perhaps?
Lord Carnaby: A bit later, Ramhotep II.
Jones: The legendary Ramhotep II ! But how do you know?
Lord Carnaby: Look at the inscription.

Jones: An inscription? Let me see. "The Eagle King..." That's Ramhotep II ! er...

Eliza: You cannot read it without a magnifying glass. It says: "The Eagle King's death will bring you gold. The Eagle King's gold will bring you death".

Lord Carnaby: This is Eliza, my daughter, and an experienced archaeologist herself. We used to travel to Egypt together in the old times, but now we need someone to help us, I am getting old.

Eliza: It's YOU that says we need help. I can lead the expedition. I am stronger and more experienced than most men!

Lord Carnaby: I know, Eliza. But we need an expert on the 18th dynasty, and Professor Jones is the best in that field.

Eliza: But, look at him. He doesn't even know how to handle a statue. WATCH OUT !

(The statue falls and breaks)

Jones: I'm... I'm so sorry!

Lord Carnaby: What is that thing inside?

Eliza: It looks like a map..... It's the map of Ramhotep's tomb! This is what we needed.

Lord Carnaby: Professor Jones, we are looking for Ramhotep II's legendary tomb. Will you join us?

***Jones*:** When and where?!

Eliza: But, father... he's so clumsy! He has just broken a 3000 year old statue!

Lord Carnaby: Yes dear, but you know in archaeology luck is as important as science, and he has proved he is lucky.

That was how Lord Carnaby, his daughter, Eliza Fitzpatrick, Professor Howard Jones, and their team, started off for Egypt in May, 1919, in search of a long forgotten tomb.

8. Listening comprehension - Help the warriors:

1. The warrior with short hair has got the red helmet
2. The black warrior has got an axe.
3. The shortest warrior has got the round shield.
4. The fattest warrior has got a blue and yellow helmet.
5. The warrior with the longest nose has got the shorter sword.
6. The warrior with long hair has got the longer sword.
7. The tallest warrior has got the checked shield.
8. The shortest warrior has got the striped yellow and orange helmet.
9. The black warrior has got the shield with a bird.

PART 3

11. Reading - The tomb of the pharaoh (Part 3):

Egypt, September 1921

Lord Carnaby's expedition has been in Egypt for two years, but they haven't found Ramhotep's tomb yet, because the map they found was incomplete. They are downhearted.

Lord Carnaby: I'm afraid we'll have to go back home in a month if we don't find the tomb. We've spent too much money.

In that moment, Ibrahim, their guide, ran into the tent.

Ibrahim: The eagle! I have found a stone with a carved eagle!

Eliza: And the map says that the entrance to the tomb is under the eagle!

Two days later the workers finished clearing the entrance to the tomb. Lord Carnaby, Eliza and Professor Jones could see a huge stone with the seal of the Eagle King, Ramhotep II. They broke the seal and opened the tomb.

They went into the tomb along a dark corridor and they reached a big chamber. At first it was very dark, but then they got used and they could see well. There were eight very realistic wooden figures of warriors holding their bows. In the middle of the room, a gold statue of a jackal shone on a stone cube.

Professor Jones held out his hand to touch the statue.

Eliza: Don't do that! No! Hide behind the stone!

The warriors shot their arrows and Jones narrowly escaped death.

Jones: You have saved my life, Eliza!

On the back wall there was a door which led to another chamber. It was pitch-black. Lord Carnaby lit a lamp and they stood there with their mouths open. Everything shone with gold: the chairs, the plates, the jewels. But the most incredible object was an enormous gold sarcophagus.

Jones: Can you believe that?

Eliza: We found it! It's the tomb of the pharaoh!

(They kiss)