

The World's Tallest Man is Turkish

Level: Pre-intermediate & Up

Objective: Comparatives & Superlatives
Present Perfect
Locating what things refer to

Plan: Ask all the students to stand up. Tell them to arrange themselves in order from tallest to shortest. Have them ask each other a few questions about each other, for example, “who’s the tallest person in the class?” or “who is taller, Mehmet or Pinar?”

Have the students sit down. Tell them you are going to read a story about the tallest man in the world. Ask them to guess how tall he is and where he is from.

Split the class into A and B groups. Group A should write questions from the article related to comparatives or superlatives, for example, “who’s taller, Bao or Kosen?” or “What’s one of the most difficult things about being tall?” Group B should write questions about the present perfect, for example, “has he ever traveled outside of Turkey before?” or “What has he never had?”

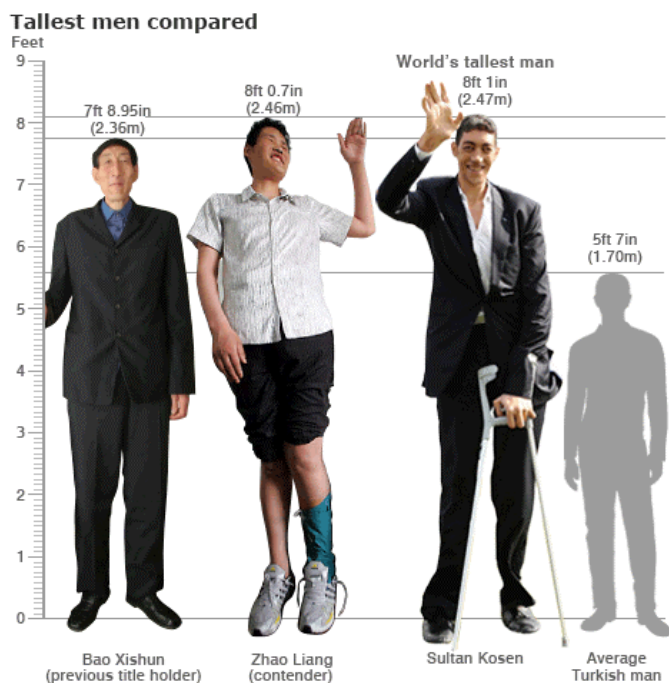
Students then pair up with a member of the opposite group and ask their questions.

Alternatively, you could have them answer the questions about locating references.

Follow-up: Have students go home and find out other record holders in Turkey or elsewhere. They should try to bring in a picture for class the next day and talk about him/her.

The World's Tallest Man is Turkish

BBC News: September 17th, 2009



The world's tallest man - who also has the largest hands and feet - has been named by Guinness World Records for the launch of its 2010 book.

At 8ft 1in (2.47m), Sultan Kosen, from Turkey, is about 4in (10cm) taller than previous title-holder Bao Xishun.

The 27-year-old's hands measure 10.8in (27.5cm) and his feet 14.3in (36.5cm).

Mr Kosen, whose height is due to the medical condition pituitary gigantism, said he hoped his new-found fame would bring him love for the first time.

"The first thing I want to do is have a car that I can fit in, but more than that I want to get married," he said.

"Up until now it's been really difficult to find a girlfriend. I've never had one, they were usually scared of me. I'm hoping now I will find one."

He went on: "Hopefully now that I'm famous I'll be able to meet lots of girls. I'd like to get married."

He also had to have a three-metre-long bed made.

Mr Kosen said: "The most difficult things are, for example, that I can't fit into a normal car. When I get into a car, it's a really tight fit.

"I can't go shopping like normal people, I have to have things made specially and sometimes they aren't always as fashionable.

"The other thing is that ceilings are low and I have to bend down through doorways."

But his height does have its upsides.

He said: "The good thing about being so tall is that I can see people from a long distance. The other thing is at home they use my height to change the light bulbs and hang the curtains, things like that."

A spokesman for Guinness World Records said Mr Kosen was the first person in more than a decade it had recognised as being more than 8ft in height,

He grew normally until he was 10, but then a tumour caused him to develop a medical condition called pituitary gigantism.

The tumour was removed last year and his growth stopped.

His visit to the UK is the first time he has travelled outside Turkey, and he will go on to visit the US and Germany.

Earlier this year, Zhao Liang from China thought he might be a contender for the world record after he was treated for an injury in hospital.

Staff there measured the former basketball player at 2.46m (just under 8ft 1in) in height.

Ukrainian Leonid Stadnyk was briefly awarded the title in 2007, but it was returned to Bao Xishun when Mr Stadnyk declined to be measured under new guidelines, which required him to be independently measured by Guinness World Records adjudicators.

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Questions for locating references:

1. Who is 27 years old?
2. What's the first thing Mr. Kosen wants to do?
3. What has he never had?
4. What's one of the most difficult things about being so tall?
5. What's one upside of being tall?