Which quarter do you compare with? A year ago, last quarter, to date

Name: Class: Date:

A company's quarter can be compared with the quarter before, with the same quarter a year earlier, or as part of the year so far. In this lesson you will try all three and find out why the answers differ.

What to do

1. Read the cards below with a partner.
2. In Part C of your worksheet, work out Coca-Cola's three changes.
3. In Part D, work out the changes for Airbnb, Costco and Netflix, and write what makes each one tricky.
4. The exit ticket is on page 2 of your worksheet.

Part A. Warm-up

1. A1. An ice cream shop sold more in July than in April. Write one reason that has nothing to do with the shop getting busier.

Part B. Words

Write each definition in your own words.

1. Year on year

2. Year to date

Part C. Coca-Cola's three changes

Use the cards. Round to one decimal place.

C1. Q3 FY2026 against Q2 FY2026: _____ %

C2. Q3 FY2026 against Q3 FY2025: _____ %

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C3. First nine months of FY2026 against FY2025: _____%

1. C4. Which change does Q1 FY2026's six extra days affect?

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Part D. Three traps

1. D1. Airbnb, Q3 FY2026 against Q2 FY2026: _____%. Against Q3 FY2025: _____%. What makes the first one tricky?

   _____

2. D2. Costco, Q4 FY2026 against Q3 FY2026: _____%. Per week: $_____ million against $_____ million. What makes the first one tricky?

   _____

3. D3. Netflix, net income Q3 FY2026 against Q3 FY2025: _____%. What one-off item sits in the year-ago quarter?

   _____

Part E. Write it fairly

One sentence per company. Name both quarters.

1. E1. Airbnb:

   _____

2. E2. Costco:

   _____

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Exit ticket

1. Write the percent-change formula.

   _____

2. Why do earnings releases usually lead with the same quarter a year earlier?

   _____

   _____

3. True or false? A quarter with more weeks can show higher revenue without the business selling more per week.

   _____

4. Name one thing to check before comparing two quarters.

   _____

Word bank

Quarter on quarter	A quarter compared with the quarter just before it.
Year on year	A quarter compared with the same quarter a year earlier.
Year to date	All the quarters of the fiscal year so far, added up.
Season	A time of year when a business is usually busier or quieter.
One-off item	A large fee, charge or gain that is not part of a usual quarter.

Sentence starters

- ____'s ____ in Q__ FY____ was ____% above / below Q__ FY____.
- The comparison with ____ is tricky because ____.
- Per week, ____ was ____ against ____.

student page

Scan the code or type: **cityfort.co/class/year-ago**

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