

COMPARISONS

1 What are the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives?

clean _____ clever _____
 hot _____ good _____
 strange _____ bad _____
 happy _____ far _____

2 Read this sentence: "They all completed their homework far more efficiently and far more quickly."

Here *far* is used with a comparative (*far more quickly*) to talk about a big difference. Which of the following are used before comparatives and superlatives for big differences and which for small differences?

a bit *much* *significantly* *a little* *slightly* *a lot*

3 To talk about people or things that are the same in some way we can use *as* + adjective or adverb + *as*.

They are just as silly as each other.

In negative sentences which talk about differences, *so* can be used instead of the first *as*.

She's not so fit as she used to be.

Not so becomes *not such* if a noun is used after the adjective.

Maybe this isn't such a good idea as I thought.

4 *The* + comparative, *the* + comparative

This structure is used to show that two changes happen together. The second change is often the result of the first.

The more facts we have at our fingertips, the less we seem to know.

The older he gets, the more slowly he drives.

EXERCISES

1 Match each sentence 1-6 with a sentence a-f which expresses a similar idea. The first has been done for you.

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|---|--|
| 1 She's far lazier than anyone else. <u>c</u> | a She doesn't work nearly as much as she should. |
| 2 She works a lot less than she ought to. _____ | b She has fewer difficulties than before. |
| 3 She's not quite as lazy as she used to be. _____ | c Everyone works much harder than she. |
| 4 She doesn't have as many problems as she used to. _____ | d She's more successful when she works harder. |
| 5 She's the worst student I've ever taught. _____ | e She's slightly more hardworking than before. |
| 6 The more she works, the more success she has. _____ | f I've never had such a bad student in my class. |

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 The film wasn't nearly as good as I thought it would be. **FAR**
 The film _____ I thought it would be.

2 I've never had such a boring holiday! **ENJOYABLE**
 This is _____ I've ever had!

3 There are fewer teachers in my school than there were last year. **NOT**
 There _____ teachers in my school as there were last year.

4 If you work harder now, you won't have to do much later. **THE**
 The harder _____ you'll have to do later.

5 Lucy is as tall as her mother. **HEIGHT**
 Lucy _____ her mother.

6 Kate has slightly more experience than others. **QUITE**
 The others don't have _____ Kate.