

1 A hotel manager has received these comments from staff on using the new customer database. Complete their comments with the correct form of the adjectives in brackets.

- 1 'It takes a little _____ (long) to learn how to use it.'
- 2 'When customers call, it's slightly _____ (easy) to find their information.'
- 3 'It's definitely not as _____ (slow) as the old system was.'
- 4 'Even the customers seem to be noticing the differences. They are far _____ (positive).'
- 5 'In general, I think it's a great deal _____ (good).'

2 Read the comments in **1** again. For each comment, decide if the improvement of the new database is big or small or if there is no improvement.

3 Correct the mistakes in this dialogue about a new office.

- 1 A This office is more noisier than the last one.
- 2 B Yeah, but at least it's not as darker as the old one.
- 3 A That's true. I just wish it was bigger.
- 4 B It's much convenienter for teamwork though.
- 5 A Yes, but it's much more worse for concentration.
- 6 B I think it's as good than the last office, but in different ways.
- 7 A Well, you've always been more tolerant than me.

4 Decide if these intensifiers indicate a big (*B*) or small (*S*) difference.

slightly _____ a great deal _____ nearly as ... as _____ not anything like as ... as _____
 a little _____ significantly _____ far more _____ much less _____ marginally _____
 not nearly ... as _____ a lot _____

- 2** Adrian Sewell's company is looking for a new website designer. He is discussing the options with two members of his team. Read this information and choose the correct answer from the words in *italics*.

Name:	Fritz Neff	Maria Mendes	Jean-Noel Petit
Experience:	5 years	5 years	2 years
Salary expectation:	high	medium	medium / low
Style:	modern	traditional	experimental
Sickness record:	1 day last year	0 days last year	11 days last year

Katie Well, I think we should choose Maria. She is ¹*significantly* / *more* experienced ²*as* / *than* Jean-Noel, and she didn't take any days off due to sickness last year.

Guy Yes, but I think Jean-Noel would be better ³*than* / *that* Maria. He's more dynamic and his salary expectations are also ⁴*slightly* / *as* lower than hers.

Adrian Well, I disagree with both of you. I think we should go for Fritz. His designs are ⁵*a bit* / *far* more up to date than Maria's and that's important for our image. And his sickness record is ⁶*marginally* / *much* better than Jean-Noel's and only ⁷*a bit* / *a great* deal worse than Maria's.

Katie Yes, but Maria is just ⁸*as* / *so* experienced ⁹*than* / *as* Fritz, and her salary expectations are lower.

Adrian I think we can talk to Fritz about salaries ...

Ex.3 Your local supermarket has changed its layout and updated its website. You were asked to give the feedback on the changes.

Barge in; slightly more; far more...; marginally; a great deal; significantly, in a nutshell; ins and outs

Exercise 1 A B C D E

Underline the correct words.

- 1 The new design is considerably *more light/lighter* than the old one.
- 2 There are nearly twice as many people working here *as/than* last year.
- 3 The sooner they decide, *it's better/the better* for us all.
- 4 There's *each time more/more and more* investment in China every year.
- 5 We have *the nearly largest/the second largest* market share in Turkey.
- 6 This model might be better for you. It's *slightly/quite* less expensive.
- 7 This is our *faster/fastest* selling product.
- 8 Everything's getting *more and more expensive/expensiver and expensiver*.
- 9 If needed, could this production line go *more quickly/more quicker*?
- 10 It's a little more expensive, but the quality is *much better/more better*.
- 11 Our sales this year are virtually *the same as/the equal of* last year.
- 12 This is one of *the best/the well* organised conferences I've ever been to.

Exercise 3 D

Rewrite each sentence using a superlative with a present participle (*doing*) or a past participle (*done*).

- 1 Few credit cards are accepted as widely as Visa.
Visa is probably the most widely accepted credit card.
- 2 No market is growing as fast as China.
China is the fastest growing market.
- 3 Few watches on the market are designed as cleverly as the new Seiko.
The new Seiko is one of the most cleverly designed watches on the market.
- 4 Few of our products are selling as well as this.
This is one of our the best selling products.
- 5 Few facts about Oracle are less known than this.
This is one of the least known facts about Oracle.
- 6 No area of business is changing anything like as rapidly as biotechnology.
By far the most rapidly changing area of business is biotechnology.

Ex.4 Hold a meeting and suggest your solution to the problem.

- Your company employs 30% more people than it did two years ago. As a result there are too few parking spaces and it is unable to get more space for employees' cars.
- Traffic in the area is getting worse and employees travelling by car are often stuck in traffic jams and arrive at work late, feeling very stressed.