

A Context listening

- A1** You are going to hear someone talking about these three magazines.



Which of the following words do you think she uses?

hairdresser music teenagers homework posters holidays sales
reviews stadium journalists sport adverts

- A2** **3** Listen and tick the words you hear.

- A3** **3** Listen to the first part of the recording again and complete the sentences below.

- 1 *Hits!* seems more colourful than *Buzz*.
- 2 *Buzz* is as as *Hits!*
- 3 *Hits!* is less than *Buzz*.
- 4 *Hits!* is than *Buzz* too.
- 5 *Buzz* isn't as as *Hits!*

- A4** **3** Listen to the second part again and tick the correct magazines.

Which magazine:	<i>Hits!</i>	<i>Buzz</i>	<i>Smash</i>
is the newest?			
has got the most reviews?			
is the most expensive?			
has the most adverts?			

- A5** Look at A3 and A4. Which exercise is about comparing two things?
Which exercise is about comparing more than two things?

B Grammar

B1 Comparative and superlative adjectives

Comparing two people or things:



Hits! is **smaller than** Buzz.

Comparing more than two people or things:



Buzz is the **most expensive** (magazine).

Hits! is the **least expensive** (magazine).

We make comparative and superlative adjectives like this:

adjective	comparative	superlative
one syllable:		
long	+ -er → longer	+ -est → the longest
ending in -e nice	+ -r → nicer	+ -st → the nicest
ending in one vowel + -b, -d, -g, -n, -p or -t big	double the last letter + -er → bigger	double the last letter + -est → the biggest
two syllables:		
famous	+ more → more famous	+ the most → the most famous
ending in -y dirty	-y and + -ier → dirtier	-y and + -iest → the dirtiest
three syllables:		
popular	+ more → more popular	+ the most → the most popular

⚠ Some adjectives are irregular:

good → better → the best, bad → worse → the worst, far → further → the furthest

His latest song is **better** than his last one. He's **the best** singer in the band.

This magazine is **worse** than that one. It's **the worst** magazine I've ever read.

We also use (not) as... as and less ... than to compare things:

Buzz **isn't as** popular **as** Hits! **or** Buzz is **less** popular **than** Hits! (= Hits! is more popular than Buzz.)

When two things are the same, we say:

Buzz is **as** popular **as** Hits!

► more	Hits! <i>is more colourful than</i> Buzz.
◄ less	Buzz <i>isn't as/so colourful as</i> Hits! / Buzz <i>is less colourful than</i> Hits!
= the same	Buzz <i>is as colourful as</i> Hits!
▲ the most	Smash <i>is the most interesting</i> magazine.
▼ the least	Buzz <i>is the least interesting</i> magazine.

→C1 and C2

B2 Comparative and superlative adverbs

Sometimes we compare **how** we do something:

*You can read Hits! **more easily** than Buzz.*

*The Smash journalists write **better** than some national journalists.*

Adverbs ending in -ly form comparatives and superlatives like this:

adverb	comparative	superlative
<i>slowly</i>	<i>more slowly</i>	<i>the most slowly</i>
<i>beautifully</i>	<i>more beautifully</i>	<i>the most beautifully</i>
<i>easily</i>	<i>more easily</i>	<i>the most easily</i>

Other adverbs form comparatives and superlatives like short adjectives:

hard → harder → hardest

*My sister works **harder** than I do but Alex works **the hardest**.*

Some adverbs are irregular:

well → better → the best, badly → worse → the worst

*I play the guitar **well**. Rob plays the guitar **better** than me. Rob plays lots of instruments but he plays the guitar **the best**.*

▲ We don't use superlative adverbs very often.

→C3

B3 Comparing nouns

We use *more/the most* to compare both countable and uncountable nouns:

*Smash has **more** reviews than Hits!*

*Hits! has **the most** adverts.*

*Smash contains **the most** information.*

We use *fewer / the fewest* to compare countable nouns:

*There are **fewer** adverts in Smash than in Hits!*

*Hits! has **the fewest** posters.*

We use *less / the least* to compare uncountable nouns:

*There's **less** rubbish in Smash than in Buzz.*

*Smash contains **the least** rubbish.*

→C4

C Grammar exercises

C1 Complete these sentences with a comparative adjective.

- 1 My teacher is friendly but my sister's teacher is friendlier .
- 2 My bike is big but my brother's bike is
- 3 This biscuit tastes nice but those cakes taste
- 4 Geography is interesting but history is
- 5 I felt nervous but my friend felt
- 6 Tim is rich but John is
- 7 This exercise is easy but the next one is
- 8 Madrid is hot but Bangkok is

C2 Write sentences comparing these things.

- 1 Football / exciting / volleyball. Football is more exciting than volleyball.
- 2 Golf / safe / horse-riding.
- 3 Water-skiing / difficult / swimming.
- 4 Motorcycling / noisy / cycling.
- 5 Rugby balls / heavy / tennis balls.

Rewrite your answers above in two different ways.

- 6 Volleyball isn't as exciting as football. Volleyball is less exciting than football.
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

C3 Change the adjective in brackets into an adverb.

- 1 She designed the clothes (*careful*) She designed the clothes carefully.
- 2 She coloured the drawings (*neat*)
- 3 She explained her designs (*good*)
- 4 She sewed her clothes (*beautiful*)

Here are the results of a competition for fashion students. Complete sentences 5–8 about Daisy, Jill and Paola using *more* and *the most* with the adverbs in sentences 1–4.

	Daisy	Jill	Paola
designed her clothes	★★★	★★	★
coloured her drawings	★	★★	★★★★
explained her designs	★	★★★★	★★
sewed her clothes	★★	★★★★	★

- 5 Jill designed her clothes more carefully than Paola but Daisy designed hers the most carefully.
- 6 Jill coloured her drawings than Daisy but Paola coloured hers
- 7 Paola explained her designs than Daisy but Jill explained hers
- 8 Daisy sewed her clothes than Paola but Jill sewed hers

C4 Match the words on the left with their opposites on the right.

expensive near old small tidy

big cheap far new untidy

Look at the pictures of three houses for sale and correct the sentences below.

A



Built 1887 £200,000
Two bedrooms,
one bathroom, sitting
room, kitchen, 5kms
from city centre

B



Built 2004 £155,000
Three bedrooms, two
bathrooms, sitting
room, kitchen, in city
centre

C



Built 1934 £325,000
Five bedrooms, three
bathrooms, sitting room,
dining room, kitchen,
2 kms from city centre

- 1 C is the smallest house. C is the biggest house.
- 2 A is the newest house. A is.
- 3 B has the most untidy garden. B has.
- 4 B is the most expensive house. B is.
- 5 A is the nearest to the city centre. A is.

Now complete these sentences about the three houses using *more*, *most*, *fewer* or *fewest*.

- 6 B has rooms than A. 9 A has the bedrooms.
- 7 C has the rooms. 10 C has bathrooms than B.
- 8 B has bedrooms than C.

D Exam practice

Writing Part 1

Here are some sentences about a radio station.

For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

Use no more than three words.

Example:

0 Radio 255 is my favourite radio station.

I think Radio 255 is better than the other radio stations.

1 Other radio stations have fewer listeners than Radio 255.

Radio 255 has listeners than other radio stations.

2 Steve Wood is funnier than all the other disc jockeys.

Steve Wood is the disc jockey.

3 I find the sports programmes interesting.

I in the sports programmes.

4 The music programmes are less popular than the news programmes.

The music programmes aren't the news programmes.

5 I entered a competition but I'm unlikely to win.

I entered a competition but I likely to win.

Grammar focus task

Sentences 0, 1, 2 and 4 test comparisons.

Can you complete each of these sentences in a different way so it still means the same?

0 Other radio stations aren't Radio 255.

1 Radio 255 has the listeners.

2 The other disc jockeys aren't Steve Wood.

4 The news programmes are than the music programmes.