

GRAMMAR

MODIFYING COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

1 Choose the correct options.

- 1 Commuting by bike is *considerably* / *among* more eco-friendly than commuting by car.
- 2 We always get an apartment near the sea so that we can spend the longest time *by far* / *possible* on the beach every day.
- 3 I liked Chicago, but it wasn't *such* / *as* an impressive city as New York.
- 4 The once-in-a-lifetime trip to Nepal was *one of* / *somewhat* the most profound experiences of my life.
- 5 It's much cheaper *renting* / *to rent* a holiday flat for a week than to stay in a hotel.
- 6 We complained about the condition of our room, but the new room they gave us wasn't *any* / *even* better.
- 7 Parts of the north of Scotland have *such* / *as* beautiful a landscape as anywhere in the world.

2 Match the grammar rules below to the sentences 1-7 in Exercise 1.

- A Modifiers such as *even*, *a great deal*, *considerably*, *substantially* and *somewhat* can be used before comparative adjectives.
- B Modifiers such as *by far*, *easily*, *one of* and *among* can be used before superlative adjectives.
- C *No* or *not any* can form the negative before a comparative adjective.
- D We can use a postmodifier (e.g. *possible*, *ever*, *by far*) to make the superlative stronger, in the structure superlative + postmodifier, or superlative + noun + postmodifier.
- E A comparative adjective can be followed by *to* infinitive + *than* + *to* infinitive.
- F We can make comparisons using structures with *as*: (not) *as* + adjective + *a/an* + noun + *as*.
- G We can make comparisons using structures with *such*: *not such* + *a/an* + adjective + noun + *as*.

3 Rewrite the sentences using the comparative or superlative structure from Exercise 2 in brackets.

- 0 Travelling by train is more economical than flying. (E)
It *is more economical to travel by train than to fly*.
- 1 You're a more skilful player than I am. (G)
I'm not _____.
- 2 We have never had such a great weekend getaway. (D)
It was our _____.
- 3 Paris is a much more expensive city than Berlin. (A)
Berlin is _____.
- 4 The first tour was boring, and the second tour was equally boring. (C)
The second tour _____.
- 5 Lisbon is as beautiful a city as any I have ever visited. (B)
Lisbon is _____.
- 6 Simon is equally enthusiastic about travelling as his sister. (F)
Simon's sister is _____.

4 Put a tick next to the correct sentence in each pair. Sometimes both are correct.

- 0 A: I've never been boreder than when I got stranded at the airport for two days. _____
B: I've never been more bored that when I got stranded at the airport for two days. ✓
- 1 A: That joke isn't any funnier than the first time you told it. _____
B: That joke isn't any more funny than the first time you told it. _____
- 2 A: You think I care, but you couldn't be wronger. _____
B: You think I care, but you couldn't be more wrong. _____
- 3 A: I thought she'd have been gratefuller for the help I gave her. _____
B: I thought she'd have been more grateful for the help I gave her. _____
- 4 A: Just download the app and place your order – it couldn't be simpler. _____
B: Just download the app and place your order – it couldn't be more simple. _____
- 5 A: The film was much more moving than I expected. _____
B: The film was much movinger than I expected. _____
- 6 A: I'd say the sky looks greyer than blue today. _____
B: I'd say the sky looks more grey than blue today. _____

5 Correct the mistakes in the sentences or put a tick by any you think are correct.

- 1 Springtime is far the best season to visit my country. _____
- 2 I have never known such gentle animal as my neighbour's dog. _____
- 3 Her seat on the return journey was no more comfortable than the one she had on the way out. _____
- 4 Your hair looks more browner than blond at the moment. _____
- 5 Our previous teacher was considerably cleverer than the current one. _____
- 6 Thankfully, it wasn't such as expensive hotel as the one we stayed in last time. _____

6 Complete the blog post using one word in each gap.

Monsoon holiday



I'm writing this post from my hotel room. This was supposed to be the best holiday ¹ _____, but I have never been ² _____ bored than I am right now. Coming to the Maldives during the monsoon season was not ³ _____ a brilliant idea as I thought it was. Sure, the tickets were a ⁴ _____ deal cheaper than for any other time of the year. Now I know why – it's been raining since I arrived.

The hotel itself is nice, which is a relief because it's by ⁵ _____ the most expensive hotel I've ever stayed in! The food here is fine, but, to be honest, no ⁶ _____ than what I can get for half the price in my home town. The hotel manager says the weather will improve tomorrow, and I hope he's right. It would have been much wiser of me to stay at home ⁷ _____ to spend all that money coming here to sit in a hotel room. This was not ⁸ _____ of my best decisions!