GRAMMAR REFERENCE AND PRACTICE

UNIT 3 COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

To make comparative and superlative adjectives:

- with one-syllable adjectives, add *-er* and *-est*.
- with adjectives ending in *-e*, add *-r* and *-st*.
  new *newer* *(the) newest*
  nice *nicer* *(the) nicest*
- with one-syllable adjectives ending in vowel + consonant, we usually double the consonant.
  big *bigger* *(the) biggest*
- with two-syllable adjectives ending in *-y*, change *-y* to *-i* and add *-er* and *-est*.
  funny *funnier* *(the) funniest*
- with other adjectives of two or more syllables, we usually use *more* and *the most*.
  interesting *more interesting* *(the) most interesting*
  beautiful *more beautiful* *(the) most beautiful*
- Some adjectives are irregular.
  good *better* *(the) best*
  bad *worse* *(the) worst*

Comparative structures

- To compare two people or things in a positive way, we can use a comparative adjective + ***than.***
  *Your laptop is **faster than** mine.*
  *The girls were **more friendly than** the boys.*
- To say two people or things are not the same, we can use ***not as*** (adjective) ***as.***
  *My laptop **isn't as fast as** yours.*
  *The boys **weren't as friendly as** the girls.*

Superlative structures

- We often use ***the*** before superlative adjectives.
  *This laptop is **the fastest** in the shop.*
  *The Brazilians were **the most friendly**.*

1 Complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adjectives. Add *than* if it is necessary.

1 I usually do my homework in the school library because my home internet is _____ (slow) my school's and my house is _____ (noisy).

2 Exams these days are _____ (hard) they were in the past, but the preparation classes are _____ (good).

3 Most teenagers prefer to wear casual clothes, partly because they're _____ (fashionable) these days and also because they're _____ (cheap) formal clothes.

4 I usually take the bus to school. It's _____ (fast) walking and it's also _____ (warm).

5 Stop worrying! Katy isn't _____ (attractive) you and she isn't _____ (funny) you either.

6 The weather forecast is for today to be _____ (wet) and _____ (windy) yesterday.

7 Now I'm even _____ (confused). Your brother's explanation was _____ (complicated) the original question.

8 We're looking for something a bit _____ (bright) and _____ (colourful), sorry.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Complete the second sentences using *not as ... as.*

1 Football is more tiring than yoga.

Yoga _____

2 Electric cars are cleaner than petrol cars.

Petrol cars _____

3 Most ballet dancers are fitter than many athletes.

Many athletes _____

4 Salads are healthier than burgers.

Burgers _____

5 I had more work last week than this week.

I don't have _____

3 Complete the sentences. Use *the* + the superlative form of the adjectives.

1 This website has _____ (cool) music and it's also _____ (cheap).

2 My brother's _____ (good) student in his class but he is _____ (bad) at sport.

3 The beach road is _____ (safe) for cycling and it has _____ (interesting) views.

4 When we go on holiday, my bag is always _____ (light) and my sister's is always _____ (big) and _____ (heavy).

5 This is a competition to find _____ (brilliant) and _____ (creative) people in the music industry.

6 It's freezing! Let's go to your house. It's _____ (close) and it's always _____ (cosy) in winter.

7 Simon really is _____ (untidy) person I've ever met. But he's also _____ (charming).

8 'You're _____ (sociable) person I know. What good cafés can we go to?'

'Let's go to CoCo's. It's _____ (lively) place I know.'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR Comparatives and superlatives

1 Complete the table with the correct comparative and superlative adjectives. Check your answers in the article.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
one-syllable adjectives		
big	bigger	the biggest
great	greater	1 _____
safe	2 _____	the safest
two-syllable adjectives with *-y*		
easy	3 _____	the easiest
other two-syllable and longer adjectives		
important	more important	6 _____
irregular adjectives		
good	5 _____	the best
bad	worse	6 _____
far	further	the furthest

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Simon, 47, and his daughter Emily, 16, answer today's question …

Is teenage life better now than in the past?

home → life → teenagers 14

Simon Everything is so different from when I was a teenager. Technology is the greatest change. I had a computer – but only for games, really. And I remember my dad's first mobile phone in the car – it was huge! But the internet and smartphones changed teenage life forever. *We* wrote letters; *they* are texting each other all day. *We* bought a few CDs every month; *they've* got almost every song in the world – in a tiny device in their pocket! When we moved home, we often never saw old friends again. Now it's simple to stay in contact with anyone, anywhere. To me, teenage life looks more exciting than it was.

Not everything is positive, of course. I don't think teenagers now are as healthy as we were in the past. They don't do enough exercise. Without technology, we were more active and spent a lot of our free time outside. Roads were safer, of course, but it's unbelievable to think that often our parents didn't have any idea where we were!

Emily Yes, technology makes our lives easier and is now essential for entertainment and school. But it brings problems too – the worst are awful things like bullying on social media …

My problem is that teenage life is too busy now. On weekdays, as well as normal lessons, there are clubs at lunchtimes. Then after school on Mondays I have Spanish lessons, trumpet on Wednesdays and our band practises on Fridays. And weekends are just not long enough! On Saturday there's yoga club and on Sunday we often see relatives. Then there's homework, of course. Sometimes I'm exhausted on Sunday evenings!

The future will be harder for us, too. And I get worried about that. My friends and I feel the most important thing is to get a good degree – or we won't be able to leave home and get a job. And that means we have to get good marks in everything now. It's stressful.

I think my parents' teenage years were more relaxed than ours are today.

2 **Read the examples. Then complete the rules with *comparative* and *superlative*.**

We often use:

a *than* after [ ] adjectives.

b *the* before [ ] adjectives.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Complete the facts with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives. Remember to use *than* or *the*.

not as ... as

4 Read the example and choose the correct option.

Teenagers **aren't as** healthy **as** they were in the past. (= *they were healthier in the past*)

We use ***not as ... as*** to say that people or things are *the same / not the same*.

5 Compare the people and things with *not as ... as*. Use the adjectives in the box or your own ideas.

comfortable	hard	old	serious	untidy

0 English / maths *English isn't as hard as maths.*
1 children / adults
2 you / your best friend
3 your dad / your mum
4 you / one of your relatives

6 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 They live in a house bigger than us.

2 My mum is more relaxed that my dad.

3 Coffee is the more popular drink in the UK.

4 This area is more quiet than the city centre.

5 My most happiest time was when I lived abroad.

6 I'm not as taller as you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS