Superlative adjectives

1. General rules

Compare one member with a whole group: the + adjective + -est, or the most / the least + longer adjective. Use in for a place or group: the tallest in the class.

Example: This is the least expensive hotel in the town.

Complete with the superlative form. Include the where needed.

1. At 190 cm, Leo is _____ student in our class. (tall)
2. This is _____ story I have ever read; I could not stop reading. (interesting)
3. At GBP 10, this is _____ ticket available; all the others cost more. (expensive; use least)
4. This is _____ box of the five; it weighs 30 kg. (heavy)
5. Of all the rooms, this is _____; you cannot hear any traffic. (quiet)

2 Emphasis with by far

Put by far before a superlative to emphasise a very large difference: by far the fastest / by far the most useful. Keep the.

Example: She is by far the fastest runner in the team.

Complete with by far + the superlative form.

1. This is _____ building in the city. (tall)
2. That was _____ part of the exam. (difficult)
3. This is _____ route to the station. (short)
4. She is _____ player in the squad. (experienced)
5. This is _____ option on the menu. (cheap)

3 One of the and among the

Use one of the or among the + superlative + plural noun to place someone or something in a leading group. This does not mean they are number one.

Example: She is one of the best players. He is among the best players.

Complete using the phrase and adjective in brackets. The plural noun is given.

1. This is _____ hotels in the city. (one of / expensive)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. She is _____ runners in the club. (among / fast)

3. It is _____ villages in the area. (one of / old)

4. These are _____ tools we own. (among / useful)

5. He is _____ students in the class. (one of / good)

4 Equal comparisons with as

Use as + adjective / adverb + as for equal qualities or performance. Use the base form, not a comparative: as tall as, not as taller as.

Example: Tom is as tall as Anna. They are both 170 cm tall.

Rewrite using as ... as and the word given.

1. Both bags weigh 5 kg. This bag is _____ that one. (heavy)

2. Both tasks have the same difficulty. Task A is _____ Task B. (difficult)

3. We are both equally tired. I am _____ you. (tired)

4. Both rooms are equally comfortable. This room is _____ that room. (comfortable)

5. Both runners finish at the same speed. Mia runs _____ Eva. (fast)

5 Unequal comparisons with not as

Use not as + adjective / adverb + as to say that someone or something has less of a quality. It does not specify how big the difference is.

Example: The bus is not as fast as the train.

Complete the second sentence using not as ... as. Write the missing phrase only.

1. The train is faster than the bus. The bus is _____ the train.

2. Anna is taller than Tom. Tom is _____ Anna.

3. The book is more interesting than the film. The film is _____ the book.

4. Our old sofa was more comfortable. This sofa is _____ our old one.

5. Mia speaks more clearly than Ben. Ben does _____ Mia.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 Small differences with not quite as

Use not quite as + adjective / adverb + as when the degree is slightly lower. The two things are close, but not equal.

Example: This room is not quite as warm as the other one.

Complete with not quite as + the word given + as.

1. Tom is only 1 cm shorter. He is _____ Anna. (tall)
2. This bag weighs a little less. It is _____ that one. (heavy)
3. The sequel is slightly less exciting. It is _____ the first film. (exciting)
4. Our room is a little smaller. It is _____ yours. (big)
5. This chair is slightly less comfortable. It is _____ that one. (comfortable)

7 Big differences with nowhere near as

Use nowhere near as + adjective / adverb + as when the degree is much lower. It is a stronger comparison than not as ... as.

Example: The practice task is nowhere near as difficult as the final exam.

Complete with nowhere near as + the word given + as.

1. This phone costs much less. It is _____ that model. (expensive)
2. The village is much quieter. It is _____ the city. (noisy)
3. The local team is much weaker. It is _____ the national team. (strong)
4. This puzzle is much easier. It is _____ the last one. (difficult)
5. The small hall holds far fewer people. It is _____ the stadium. (big)

8 Comparing longer adverbs

Use more / less + adverb + than to compare how actions happen. Much / a lot / slightly can modify the comparison. Keep the adverb form: carefully, not careful.

Example: She works more carefully than her brother.

Complete with more or less and the adverb in brackets. Use the clue.

1. He makes fewer mistakes now. He works _____ than before. (carefully)
2. Please slow down. Speak _____ than you are speaking now. (quickly)
3. I can hear every word. She speaks much _____ than her colleague. (clearly)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. He does not visit as often now. He visits _____ than before. (frequently)

5. She has stopped hesitating. She speaks _____ than last month. (confidently)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9 Comparing short adverbs

Some short adverbs take -er: fast - faster, hard - harder, late - later. Use them to compare actions. Do not use more faster or more harder.

Example: She runs faster than I do. He works harder than before.

Complete using the comparative form of the adverb.

1. Mia finishes the race first because she runs _____ than I do. (fast)
2. To improve his results, he studies _____ than before. (hard)
3. The evening bus arrives _____ than the afternoon bus. (late)
4. The alarm now rings at 6:00 instead of 7:00. It rings _____. (early)
5. Please walk _____; we are going to miss the train. (fast)

10 More and less of a noun

Use more / less of a + singular countable noun to compare how strongly something fits a description. Use an before a vowel sound: more of an adventure.

Example: The exam was less of a challenge than I expected.

Complete with more or less of a/an and the noun. Follow the clue.

1. The exam was easier than expected. It was _____ than I feared. (challenge)
2. The delay caused far greater trouble. It was _____ than we expected. (problem)
3. The trip was much more exciting. It was _____ than a normal holiday. (adventure)
4. We found a quick solution. The mistake was _____ than it first seemed. (disaster)
5. The final was much harder to win. It was _____ than the first match. (battle)

LIVEWORKSHEETS