COMPARISONS

1 What are the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives?

clean _____ _____ clever _____ _____

hot _____ _____ good _____ _____

strange _____ _____ bad _____ _____

happy _____ _____ far _____ _____

2 Read this sentence: *"They all completed their homework far more efficiently and far more quickly."*
Here *far* is used with a comparative (*far more quickly*) to talk about a big difference. Which of the following are used before comparatives and superlatives for big differences and which for small differences?

a bit *much* *significantly* *a little* *slightly* *a lot*

3 To talk about people or things that are the same in some way we can use *as* + adjective or adverb + *as*.

*They are just **as silly as** each other.*

In negative sentences which talk about differences, *so* can be used instead of the first *as*.

*She's **not so fit as** she used to be.*

Not so becomes *not such* if a noun is used after the adjective.

*Maybe this is**n't such a good idea as** I thought.*

4 *The* + comparative, *the* + comparative

This structure is used to show that two changes happen together. The second change is often the result of the first.

***The more** facts we have at our fingertips, **the less** we seem to know.*

***The older** he gets, **the more slowly** he drives.*

EXERCISES

1 Match each sentence 1-6 with a sentence a-f which expresses a similar idea. The first has been done for you.

1 She's far lazier than anyone else. ___c___ **a** She doesn't work nearly as much as she should.
2 She works a lot less than she ought to. _____ **b** She has fewer difficulties than before.
3 She's not quite as lazy as she used to be. _____ **c** Everyone works much harder than she.
4 She doesn't have as many problems as she used to. _____ **d** She's more successful when she works harder.
5 She's the worst student I've ever taught. _____ **e** She's slightly more hardworking than before.
6 The more she works, the more success she has. _____ **f** I've never had such a bad student in my class.

2 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 The film wasn't nearly as good as I thought it would be. **FAR**

The film _____ I thought it would be.

2 I've never had such a boring holiday! **ENJOYABLE**

This is _____ I've ever had!

3 There are fewer teachers in my school than there were last year. **NOT**

There _____ teachers in my school as there were last year.

4 If you work harder now, you won't have to do much later. **THE**

The harder _____ you'll have to do later.

5 Lucy is as tall as her mother. **HEIGHT**

Lucy _____ her mother.

6 Kate has slightly more experience than others. **QUITE**

The others don't have _____ Kate.