



Faster, faster!

Time is the coin of your life. Only you can decide how to spend it.
Don't let other people spend it for you.
Carl Sandburg, American poet

1 GRAMMAR comparatives, *as...as*, *less... than...*

- a Complete the sentences with the correct comparative form of the adjective / adverb.
- 1 The weather is worse today than it was yesterday. (bad)
 - 2 Please drive _____. You're going too fast! (slowly)
 - 3 I failed the test. I'll work _____ next time. (hard)
 - 4 Her life has become _____ since she had her second child. (+ stressful)
 - 5 That joke is _____ than the last one you told. (funny)
 - 6 The climate in the northern part of my country is _____ than in the south. (wet)
 - 7 She sings _____ than you. (good)
 - 8 Basketball is _____ than soccer in the US. (+ popular)

b Rewrite the sentences using *not as ... as*.



1 This vacuum cleaner is quieter than that one.

That vacuum cleaner isn't as quiet as this one.

2 Carlos speaks more quickly than David.

David _____.

3 Russia is bigger than the US.

The US _____.

4 Portugal played better than Greece.

Greece _____.

5 Kim drives more carefully than Mark.

Mark _____.

6 Tokyo is more expensive than Seoul.

Seoul _____.

7 Ivana dresses more elegantly than Bianca.

Bianca _____.

8 Classical music is more relaxing than rock music.

Rock music _____.

3 VOCABULARY expressions with *time*

Complete the sentences with these words.

spend waste on take a long
don't have enough save

- 1 Don't waste time doing things you don't enjoy.
- 2 The flight to New Zealand is going to _____ time.
- 3 I'm sorry, but I _____ time to see you today.
- 4 She needs to _____ more time studying.
- 5 We'll _____ time if we take the train. Then we won't get stuck in traffic.
- 6 I hope we arrive _____ time. My dad is meeting me at the airport.

4 READING

a Read the story and put the pictures in the correct order.



The Fisherman and the Banker

An American banker was walking on a beautiful beach in a small Mexican village. He saw a fisherman in his boat with a few fish on it.

“Great fish!” he said. “How long did it take you to catch them?”

“Not very long,” answered the fisherman.

“Why didn’t you stay at sea longer to catch some more?” asked the banker.

“There are enough fish here to feed my family,” answered the fisherman.

Then the banker asked, “But what do you do the rest of the time?”

“I sleep late, I fish a little, I play with my kids, I take naps. In the evening, I go to see my friends in the village. We drink wine and play the guitar. I’m busier than you think. Life here isn’t as ...”

The banker interrupted him. “I have an MBA from Harvard University and I can help you. You’re not fishing as much as you can. If you start fishing for longer periods of time, you’ll get enough money from selling the fish to buy a bigger boat. Then with the money you’ll get from catching and selling more fish, you could buy a second boat and then a third one and so on. Then instead of selling your fish to stores, you could sell them directly to a fish factory, or even open your own factory. Then you’ll be able to leave your little village for Mexico City, where you could direct the company.”

“How long will that take?” asked the fisherman.

“About 15 to 20 years,” answered the banker.

“And then?”

“Then it gets more interesting,” said the banker, smiling and talking more quickly. “When the moment comes, you can put your company on the stock market and you will make millions.”

“Millions? But then what?”

“Then you can retire, live in a small village by the sea, go to the beach, sleep late, play with your kids, ...”

b Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The fisherman needed more fish. F
- 2 He enjoyed his lifestyle.
- 3 The banker wanted him to work harder.
- 4 He told the fisherman to buy a smaller boat.
- 5 The banker said he would be rich in five years.
- 6 He probably didn't convince the fisherman.