

## EXERCISE 46: Sentences—Comparatives

In some sentences in the Structure Section on the Paper-Based TOEFL, you will be asked to identify the correct comparative. A comparative can be a word or phrase that expresses similarity or difference. A comparative can also be a word ending like *-er* or *-est* that expresses a degree of comparison with adjectives and adverbs. Choose the correct answer in the incomplete sentences. Choose the incorrect word or phrase in the underlined choices.

1. Tuition at an American university runs \_\_\_\_\_ twenty thousand dollars a semester.  
 A so high as  
 B as high to  
 C as high as  
 D as high than
2. Alligators are about the same color than  
 A  B  
crocodiles, although the adults may be  
 C  D  
slightly darker with broader heads and  
blunter noses.  
 E
3. Laser discs provide images of best quality  
 A  B  
than those of either television signals or  
 C  D  
video tapes.
4. The cost of a thirty-second commercial on  
a network television station is \_\_\_\_\_ for  
most businesses.  
 A so much  
 B much  
 C very much  
 D much too much
5. The New York City subway system is  
 A  
the most longest underground railroad  
 B  C  
operating in the world.  
 D
6. School children in the same grade in  
 A  
American schools are usually the same old  
 B  C  D  
as their classmates.
7. The seed heads of teasel plants raise the  
nap on coarse tweed cloth \_\_\_\_\_ than do  
the machine tools invented to replace them.  
 A more efficiently  
 B efficiently  
 C more efficient  
 D most efficient
8. Benjamin Franklin was the editor of  
 A  
the larger newspaper in the colonies, a  
 B  
diplomatic representative to France and later  
to England, and the inventor of many useful  
 C  D  
devices.
9. The standard for cleanliness in the area  
where a microchip is manufactured is  
 A  B  C  
the same that of an operating room in a hospital.  
 D
10. The North American robin is only \_\_\_\_\_  
the European and African robins.  
 A half big  
 B as big half  
 C half as big as  
 D big by half
11. Mountain bikes differ ordinary bicycles in  
 A  
that they have ten or more gears, a  
 B  
more rugged frame, and wider treads on  
 C  D  
the tires.
12. As a rule, the more rapid the heart rate,  
 A  B  C  
faster the pulse.  
 D