

Listening and grammar exercises page 98

Listen to the podcast and check the items from the list in 3a that you hear.

3 a Which two reasons for getting a job in the television and movie industry are not mentioned in the podcast?

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 knowing the right people | |
| 2 having relevant work experience | |
| 3 having a rich family | |
| 4 being the best candidate for the job | |
| 5 having the right skills and training | |
| 6 going to a good school | |
| 7 applying for hundreds of jobs | |
| 8 being in the right place at the right time | |

b Listen again and check.

Read the sentences. Mark the words that modify the comparisons. Then, complete the grammar panel.

- 1 This month's podcast topic isn't quite as serious as the last one.
- 2 Living costs are far higher than in other parts of the country.
- 3 It's slightly easier if your parents help you.
- 4 Creative industries are nowhere near as open as other professions.
- 5 Training is just as important as contacts.
- 6 Bollywood isn't any less competitive than Hollywood.

 **MODIFYING COMPARISONS**

We modify comparative adjectives to show there is...

1 a big difference between two things. Use *much, a lot* or ⁽¹⁾ + comparative adjective + *than*:
Tokyo is a lot more expensive than Mumbai.

Use ⁽²⁾ *near or not nearly* + *as* + adjective + *as*:
My university isn't nearly as exclusive as people think.

2 a small difference between two things. Use *a little bit* or ⁽³⁾ + comparative adjective:
My sister is a little shorter than me.

Use *not* ⁽⁴⁾ + *as* + adjective + *as*:
The exam wasn't quite as difficult as last year.

3 no difference—one thing is equal to another.
Use ⁽⁵⁾ + *as* + adjective + *as*:
I'm just as angry about it as you are!

Use ⁽⁶⁾ in questions/negatives + comparative adjective:
Is the train any cheaper than flying?

- 3 a** Complete the text with the words in the box. Some can go in more than one blank.

a little bit far just much nowhere near slightly

I really enjoyed the podcast! It was ⁽¹⁾ more interesting than last week's. The program was about getting into the best universities in England. Apparently, it's really hard—it's ⁽²⁾ as difficult as working in movies or TV. It's ⁽³⁾ easier to get into a top university if you go to an expensive school first. Students from state schools are ⁽⁴⁾ as likely to go to top universities as those from private schools. Five elite private schools send more students to Oxford and Cambridge than 2,000 other schools combined! The situation is ⁽⁵⁾ better than in the past, though not much. The universities now accept students from state schools who show promise in the interview, even if their grades are ⁽⁶⁾ lower than those of private school students.



