Comparatives and superlative adverbs

1. Comparative adverbs

What is a comparative adverb?

A **comparative adverb** is one that, in English, has -ER at the end of it or more or less in front of it, for example, earlier, later, more/less often.

Adverbs can be used to make comparisons in Spanish, just as they can in English. The comparative of adverbs (more often, more efficiently, faster) is formed using the same phrases as for adjectives:

más ... (que)	more ... (than)
más rápido (que)	faster (than), more quickly (than)
Corre más rápido que tú.	He runs faster than you do.
menos ... (que)	less ... (than)
menos rápido (que)	less fast (than), less quickly (than)
Conduce menos rápido que tú.	He drives less fast than you do.

2. Superlative adverbs

What is a superlative adverb?

A **superlative adverb** is one that, in English, has -EST at the end of it or most or least in front of it, for example, soonest, most/least often.

The superlative of adverbs (the most often, the most efficiently, the fastest) is formed in the same way in Spanish as the comparative, using **más** and **menos**. In this case, they mean the most and the least.

María es la que corre más rápido.	Maria is the one who runs (the) fastest.
la chica que sabe más	the girl who knows (the) most
la chica que sabe menos	the girl who knows (the) least
El que llegó menos tarde fue Miguel.	Miguel was the one who arrived least late.

- **NOTE**: even though comparative and superlative adverbs are usually identical in Spanish, you can tell which one is meant by the rest of the sentence.

3 Irregular comparative and superlative adverbs

- Some common Spanish adverbs have irregular comparative and superlatives.

Adverb	Meaning	Comparative	Meaning	Superlative	Meaning
bien	well	**mejor**	better	**(El/la) mejor**	(the) best
mal	badly	**peor**	worse	**(El/la) peor**	(the) worst
mucho	a lot	**más**	more	**(El/la) más**	(the) most
poco	little	**menos**	less	**(El/la) menos**	(the) least

Él es el mejor de la clase	He is the best of the class
La conozco mejor que tú.	I know her better than you do.
¿Quién lo hace mejor?	Who does it (the) best?
Usted es la menos indicada para el cargo	You are the least suitable for the position
Ahora salgo más/menos en estos días.	I go out more/less these days.

Tip: When saying more than, less than or fewer than followed by a number, use **MÁS AND MENOS DE** rather than **MÁS AND MENOS QUE**.

más/menos de veinte cajas	more/fewer than twenty boxes

- Note that in phrases like: it's the least one can expect or it's the least I can do, where the adverb is qualified by further information, in Spanish you have to put **lo** before the adverb. **(Do not worry I will explain this to you in detail!)**

Es lo menos que se puede esperar.	It is the least one can expect.

4. Other ways of making comparisons

There are other ways of making comparisons in Spanish:

TANTO COMO as much as

No lee tanto como tú.	He doesn't read as much as you.

TAN ... COMO as ... as

Vine tan pronto como pude.	I came as fast as I could.

Key points to remember!!

Más + adverb (+ **que**) = more + adverb + (than)

Menos + adverb (+ **que**) = less + adverb + (than)

(El/la) Más + adverb = (the) most + adverb

(El/la) Menos + adverb = (the) least + adverb

There are a few irregular comparative and superlative adverbs.

There are other ways of making comparisons in Spanish: **tanto como**, **tan ... como**.