

## COMPARATIVES (PARTS 2 and 3)

### A

Before comparatives you can use:

**much**    **a lot**    **far** (= a lot)    **a bit**    **a little**    **slightly** (= a little)

- ☐ Let's go by car. It's **much cheaper**. (or **a lot cheaper**)
- ☐ 'How do you feel now?' 'Much **better**, thanks.'
- ☐ Don't go by train. It's **a lot more expensive**. (or **much more expensive**)
- ☐ Could you speak **a bit more slowly**? (or **a little more slowly**)
- ☐ This bag is **slightly heavier** than the other one.
- ☐ Her illness was **far more serious** than we thought at first. (or **much more serious** / **a lot more serious**)

### B

You can use **any** and **no** + comparative (**any longer** / **no bigger** etc.):

- ☐ I've waited long enough. I'm not waiting **any longer**. (= not even a little longer)
- ☐ We expected their apartment to be very big, but it's **no bigger** than ours. or ... it isn't **any bigger** than ours. (= not even a little bigger)
- ☐ How do you feel now? Do you feel **any better**?
- ☐ This hotel is better than the other one, and it's **no more expensive**.

### C

**Better and better / more and more** etc.

We repeat comparatives (**better and better** etc.) to say that something changes continuously:

- ☐ Your English is improving. It's getting **better and better**.
- ☐ The city has grown fast in recent years. It's got **bigger and bigger**.
- ☐ As I listened to his story, I became **more and more convinced** that he was lying.
- ☐ These days **more and more people** are learning English.

### D

**The ... the ...**

You can say **the** (sooner/bigger/more etc.) **the better**:

- ☐ 'What time shall we leave?' 'The **sooner the better**.' (= as soon as possible)
- ☐ A: What sort of box do you want? A big one?  
B: Yes, **the bigger the better**. (= as big as possible)
- ☐ When you're travelling, **the less luggage** you have **the better**.

We also use **the ... the ...** to say that one thing depends on another thing:

- ☐ **The warmer** the weather, **the better** I feel. (= if the weather is warmer, I feel better)
- ☐ **The sooner** we leave, **the earlier** we will arrive.
- ☐ **The younger** you are, **the easier** it is to learn.
- ☐ **The more expensive** the hotel, **the better** the service.
- ☐ **The more** electricity you use, **the higher** your bill will be.
- ☐ **The more** I thought about the plan, **the less** I liked it.

### E

**Older and elder**

The comparative of **old** is **older**:

- ☐ David looks **older** than he really is.

You can use **elder** (or **older**) when you talk about people in a family. You can say (my/your etc.) **elder sister/brother/daughter/son**:

- ☐ My **elder sister** is a TV producer. (or My **older sister** ...)

We say 'my **elder sister**', but we do not say that 'somebody is elder':

- ☐ My sister is **older** than me. (not elder than me)

## Exercises

**106.1** Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences. Use **much** / **a bit** etc. + a comparative form. Use **than** where necessary.

- 1 Her illness was much more serious than we thought at first. (much / serious)
- 2 This bag is too small. I need something . (much / big)
- 3 I liked the museum. It was I expected. (much / interesting)
- 4 It was very hot yesterday. Today it's . (a bit / cool)
- 5 I'm afraid the problem is it seems. (far / complicated)
- 6 You're driving too fast. Can you drive ? (a bit / slowly)
- 7 It's to learn a language in a country where it is spoken. (a lot / easy)
- 8 I thought she was younger than me, but in fact she's . (slightly / old)

**106.2** Complete the sentences using **any/no** + comparative. Use **than** where necessary.

- 1 I've waited long enough. I'm not waiting any longer.
- 2 I'm sorry I'm a bit late, but I couldn't get here \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 This shop isn't expensive. The prices are \_\_\_\_\_ anywhere else.
- 4 I need to stop for a rest. I can't walk \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The traffic isn't particularly bad today. It's \_\_\_\_\_ usual.

**106.3** Complete the sentences using the structure in Section C (... and ...).

- 1 It's getting more and more difficult to find a job. (difficult)  
2 That hole in your sweater is getting ..... (big)  
3 My bags seemed to get ..... as I carried them. (heavy)  
4 As I waited for my interview, I became ..... (nervous)  
5 As the day went on, the weather got ..... (bad)  
6 Health care is becoming ..... (expensive)  
7 Since Anna went to Canada, her English has got ..... (good)  
8 As the conversation went on, Paul became ..... (talkative)

**106.4** Complete the sentences using the structure in Section D (the ... the ...).

- 1 I like warm weather.  
The warmer the weather, the better I feel. (feel)
- 2 I didn't really like him when we first met.  
But the more I got to know him, ..... (like)
- 3 If you're in business, you want to make a profit.  
The more goods you sell, ..... (profit)
- 4 It's hard to concentrate when you're tired.  
The more tired you are, ..... (hard)
- 5 Kate had to wait a very long time.  
The longer she had to wait, ..... (impatient / become)

**106.5** Use the words on the right to complete the sentences.

- 1 I like to travel light. The less luggage, the better.
- 2 The problem is getting worse and more serious.
- 3 The more time I have, the longer it takes me to do things.
- 4 I'm walking as fast as I can. I can't walk any faster.
- 5 The higher your income, the more tax you have to pay.
- 6 I'm surprised Anna is only 25. I thought she was older.
- 7 Jane's younger sister is a nurse.
- 8 I was a little late. The journey took longer than I expected.
- 9 We have a lot to discuss. We need to start the meeting earlier than 9.30.
- 10 Don't tell him anything. The less he knows, the better.

any  
better  
elder  
~~less~~  
less  
longer  
more  
no  
older  
slightly  
the



**A**

Study this example situation:



SARAH      JOE      DAVID

Sarah, Joe and David are all very rich.  
Sarah has \$20 million, Joe has \$15 million  
and David has \$10 million. So:

Joe is rich.

He is **richer than** David.

But he **isn't as rich as** Sarah.

(= Sarah is **richer than** he is)

Some more examples of **not as ... (as)**:

- ☐ Jack **isn't as old as** he looks. (= he looks **older than** he is)
- ☐ The town centre **wasn't as crowded as** usual. (= it is usually **more crowded**)
- ☐ Lisa **didn't do as well in** the exam **as** she had hoped. (= she had hoped to do **better**)
- ☐ The weather is better today. It's **not as cold**. (= yesterday was **colder than** today)
- ☐ I **don't know as many people as** you do. (= you know **more people than** me)
- ☐ 'How much did it cost? Fifty pounds?' 'No, **not as much as** that.' (= **less than** fifty pounds)

You can also say **not so ... (as)**:

- ☐ It's not warm, but it **isn't so cold as** yesterday. (= it isn't **as cold as** ...)

**Less ... than** is similar to **not as ... as**:

- ☐ I spent **less money than** you. (= I **didn't spend as much money as** you)
- ☐ The city centre was **less crowded than** usual. (= it **wasn't as crowded as** usual)
- ☐ I play tennis **less than** I used to. (= I **don't play as much as** I used to)

**B**

We also use **as ... as** (but not so ... as) in positive sentences and in questions:

- ☐ I'm sorry I'm late. I got here **as fast as** I could.
- ☐ There's plenty of food. You can have **as much as** you want.
- ☐ Let's walk. It's **just as quick as** taking the bus.
- ☐ Can you send me the information **as soon as possible**, please?

Also **twice as ... as**, **three times as ... as** etc. :

- ☐ Petrol is **twice as expensive as** it was a few years ago.
- ☐ Their house is about **three times as big as** ours.

**C**

We say **the same as** (not the same like):

- ☐ Laura's salary is **the same as** mine. or Laura gets **the same salary as** me.
- ☐ David is **the same age as** James.
- ☐ Sarah hasn't changed. She still looks **the same as** she did ten years ago.

**D**

**Than me / than I am** etc.

You can say:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> You're taller <b>than me</b> .<br>(not usually You're taller than I) | or You're taller <b>than I am</b> .           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> He's not as clever <b>as her</b> .                                   | or He's not as clever <b>as she is</b> .      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They have more money <b>than us</b> .                                | or They have more money <b>than we have</b> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can't run as fast <b>as him</b> .                                  | or I can't run as fast <b>as he can</b> .     |

## Exercises

### 107.1 Complete the sentences using **as ... as**.

- 1 I'm tall, but you are taller. I'm not as tall as you.
- 2 My salary is high, but yours is higher. My salary isn't .....
- 3 You know a bit about cars, but I know more.  
You don't .....
- 4 We are busy today, but we were busier yesterday.  
We aren't .....
- 5 I still feel bad, but I felt a lot worse earlier.  
I don't .....
- 6 Our neighbours have lived here for quite a long time, but we've lived here longer.  
Our neighbours haven't .....
- 7 I was a little nervous before the interview, but usually I'm a lot more nervous.  
I wasn't .....

### 107.2 Write a new sentence with the same meaning.

- 1 Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't as old as he looks.
- 2 I didn't spend as much money as you. You spent more money than me.
- 3 The station was nearer than I thought. The station wasn't .....
- 4 The meal didn't cost as much as I expected. The meal cost .....
- 5 I go out less than I used to. I don't .....
- 6 Karen's hair isn't as long as it used to be. Karen used to .....
- 7 I know them better than you do. You don't .....
- 8 There are fewer people at this meeting than at the last one.  
There aren't .....

### 107.3 Complete the sentences using **as ... as + the following**:

**bad   comfortable   ~~fast~~   hard   long   often   quietly   soon   well**

- 1 I'm sorry I'm late. I got here as fast as I could.
- 2 It was a difficult question. I answered it ..... I could.
- 3 'How long can I stay with you?' 'You can stay ..... you like.'
- 4 I need the information quickly, so let me know ..... possible.
- 5 I like to keep fit, so I go swimming ..... I can.
- 6 I didn't want to wake anybody, so I came in ..... I could.

**In the following sentences use **just as ... as**.**

- 7 I'm going to sleep on the floor. It's ..... the bed.
- 8 You always say how tiring your job is, but I work ..... you.
- 9 At first I thought he was nice, but really he's ..... everybody else.

### 107.4 Write sentences using **the same as**.

- 1 David and James are both 22 years old. David is the same age as James.
- 2 You and I both have dark brown hair. Your hair ..... mine.
- 3 I arrived at 10.25 and so did you. I arrived ..... you.
- 4 My birthday is 5 April. It's Tom's birthday too. My birthday ..... Tom's.

### 107.5 Complete the sentences with **than ...** or **as ...**.

- 1 I can't reach as high as you. You are taller than me.
- 2 He doesn't know much. I know more .....
- 3 I don't work particularly hard. Most people work as hard .....
- 4 We were very surprised. Nobody was more surprised .....
- 5 She's not a very good player. I'm a better player .....
- 6 They've been very lucky. I wish we were as lucky .....