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 is**n'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)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 ..... and more serious.
3 The more time I have, the ..... it takes me to do things.
4 I'm walking as fast as I can. I can't walk ..... faster.
5 The higher your income, ... more tax you have to pay.
6 I'm surprised Anna is only 25. I thought she was ..... .
7 Jane's ..... 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 ..... later than 9.30.
10 Don't tell him anything. The ..... he knows, the ..... .

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 is**n'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:

- You're taller **than me**. (*not usually* You're taller than I) *or* You're taller **than I am**.
- He's not as clever **as her**. *or* He's not as clever **as she is**.
- They have more money **than us**. *or* They have more money **than we have**.
- I can't run as fast **as him**. *or* I can't run as fast **as he can**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS