

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.

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 anywhere else .
- 3 This shop isn't expensive. The prices are anywhere else .
- 4 I need to stop for a rest. I can't walk anywhere else .
- 5 The traffic isn't particularly bad today. It's anywhere else 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. (big)
- 3 My bags seemed to get heavy as I carried them. (heavy)
- 4 As I waited for my interview, I became nervous. (nervous)
- 5 As the day went on, the weather got bad. (bad)
- 6 Health care is becoming expensive. (expensive)
- 7 Since Anna went to Canada, her English has got good. (good)
- 8 As the conversation went on, Paul became talkative. (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)

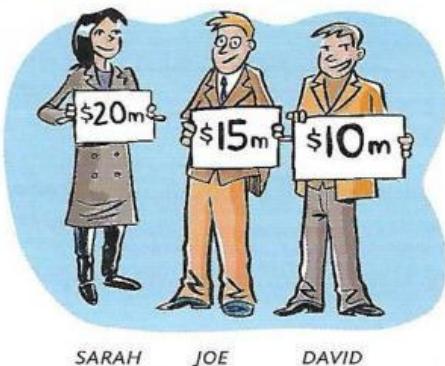
106.5 Use the words on the right to complete the sentences.

- 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

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A

Study this example situation:



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:

- You're taller **than me**. or You're taller **than I am**.
(*not usually You're taller than I*)
- 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**.

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

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 as near as I thought.
- 4 The meal didn't cost as much as I expected. The meal cost as much as I expected.
- 5 I go out less than I used to. I don't go out as much as I used to.
- 6 Karen's hair isn't as long as it used to be. Karen used to have longer hair than she does now.
- 7 I know them better than you do. You don't know them as well as I do.
- 8 There are fewer people at this meeting than at the last one.
There aren't as many people at this meeting as there were at the last one.

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 as well as I could.
- 3 'How long can I stay with you?' 'You can stay as long as you like.'
- 4 I need the information quickly, so let me know as soon as possible.
- 5 I like to keep fit, so I go swimming as often as I can.
- 6 I didn't want to wake anybody, so I came in as quietly as I could.

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

- 7 I'm going to sleep on the floor. It's as uncomfortable as the bed.
- 8 You always say how tiring your job is, but I work as hard as you.
- 9 At first I thought he was nice, but really he's as bad as 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 is the same colour as mine.
- 3 I arrived at 10.25 and so did you. I arrived at the same time as you.
- 4 My birthday is 5 April. It's Tom's birthday too. My birthday is on the same day as 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 than he does.
- 3 I don't work particularly hard. Most people work as hard as most people.
- 4 We were very surprised. Nobody was more surprised than we were.
- 5 She's not a very good player. I'm a better player than she is.
- 6 They've been very lucky. I wish we were as lucky as they are.