3 GRAMMAR & PRONUNCIATION

comparative adjectives and adverbs, *as...as*; /ə/

a Look at the highlighted words in the sentences. Are they adjectives or adverbs?

1 My husband's life is very busy, and he's sometimes stressed.
2 My sister walks and talks very quickly.
3 Some young people eat a lot of fast food.
4 If things don't happen as fast as I want them to, I get impatient.
5 Some people don't think living faster is a bad thing.
6 I think in general I live well.

b Circle the correct form.

1 Life is *faster / more fast* than before.
2 Traffic in cities is *more bad / worse* than it was.
3 Everybody is *busyer / busier* than they were five years ago.
4 We are *more stressed / stresseder* than our grandparents were.
5 We do everything *more quickly / quicklier*.
6 People aren't *as patient as / as patient than* they were before.

d 5.6 Listen to the sentences in **b**. What is the vowel sound for...?

1 final *-er* in a comparative adjective, e.g. *faster*
2 *as* and *than*

e Listen again and repeat the sentences. Copy the rhythm and try to get the /ə/ sound right.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5A comparatives

adjectives

1 I'm **busier than** I was five years ago. 5.4
People are **more impatient** today **than** in the past.
2 I'm **less relaxed** this year **than** I was last year.
3 The service in this restaurant isn't **as good as** it was.

- To compare two people, places, or things we use:
  1 comparative adjectives.
  2 *less* + adjective.
  3 (*not*) *as* + adjective + *as*.

comparative adjectives

short	shorter	one syllable: + *-er*
hot	hotter	one vowel + one consonant: double final consonant
stressed	more stressed	one syllable adjectives ending in *-ed*: *more* + adjective
busy	busier	two syllable adjectives ending in consonant + *y*: *y* + *-ier*
relaxed	more relaxed	two or more syllables: *more* + adjective
good	better	irregular
bad	worse	irregular
far	further	irregular (also *farther*)

adverbs

1 People walk **more quickly than** in the past. 5.5
2 My brother speaks French, but **less fluently** than me.
3 She doesn't drive **as fast as** her brother.

- To compare two actions we use:
  1 comparative adverbs.
  2 *less* + adverb.
  3 (*not*) *as* + adverb + *as*.

comparative adverbs

quickly	more quickly	adverbs ending in *-ly*: *more* + adverb
fast	faster	irregular
hard	harder	irregular
well	better	irregular
badly	worse	irregular

Comparatives with pronouns

After comparative + *than* or *as...as* we use an object pronoun (*me, her,* etc.) or a subject pronoun + auxiliary verb, e.g.
My brother's taller than ***me****. My brother's taller than* ***I am****.*
He's not as intelligent as ***her****. He's not as intelligent as* ***she is****.*

5A

a Write sentences with a comparative adjective or adverb + *than*.

New York is *more expensive than* Miami. (expensive)

1 Modern computers are much _____ the early ones. (fast)
2 My sister is _____ me. (short)
3 This exercise is _____ the last one. (easy)
4 Newcastle is _____ from London _____ Leeds. (far)
5 I thought the third Bridget Jones film was _____ the first two. (bad)
6 Manchester United played _____ Arsenal. (good)
7 I'm _____ this year _____ I was last year. (stressed)
8 I'm working _____ this year _____ last year. (hard)
9 The new airport is _____ the old one. (big)
10 I'm not lazy – I just work _____ you! (slowly)

b Rewrite the sentences so they mean the same. Use *as...as*.



Luke is stronger than Peter.
Peter isn't *as strong as* Luke.

1 Adam is shorter than Jerry.
Jerry isn't _____ Adam.
2 Your bag is nicer than mine.
My bag isn't _____ yours.
3 Tokyo is bigger than London.
London isn't _____ Tokyo.
4 Tennis is more popular than cricket.
Cricket isn't _____ tennis.
5 Children learn languages faster than adults.
Adults don't _____ children.
6 I work harder than you.
You don't _____ me.
7 England played better than France.
France didn't _____ England.

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