

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.

5A comparatives

adjectives

1 I'm **busier** than I was five years ago.
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.

5.4

- 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.
2 My brother speaks French, but **less fluently** than me.
3 She doesn't drive **as fast as** her brother.

5.5

- 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.

p.39