

1 GRAMMAR comparative adjectives and adverbs, as...as

a Complete the sentences with the correct comparative form of the adjective / adverb.

- 1 My new boss is more patient than my old one. (patient)
- 2 Pollution is _____ in cities than it is in the country. (bad)
- 3 We aren't in a hurry. You can drive _____. (slowly)
- 4 The summers here are _____ than they were in the past. (hot)
- 5 I failed the test. I'll work _____ next time. (hard)
- 6 It's _____ to my parents' house than it is to my best friend's. (far)
- 7 You can make the dinner tonight. You cook _____ than me. (good)
- 8 The Japanese diet is _____ than the American diet. (healthy)
- 9 A motorcycle is _____ than a car. (dangerous)
- 10 Los Angeles International Airport is _____ than San Francisco International Airport. (busy)

b Rewrite the sentences using *as...as*.

- 1 This car goes faster than that one.
That car doesn't go as fast as this one.
- 2 Her shoes were more stylish than her handbag.
Her handbag wasn't _____.
- 3 My boss's office is bigger than mine.
My office isn't _____.
- 4 South Korea played better than the US.
The US didn't _____.
- 5 I drive more carefully than you.
You don't _____.
- 6 Laptops are more expensive than cell phones.
Cell phones aren't _____.
- 7 Ben looks more relaxed than Anna.
Anna doesn't _____.
- 8 His shirt was dirtier than his pants.
His pants weren't _____.

2 VOCABULARY time expressions

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

in on save spend take waste

- 1 The flight to Beijing is going to take about 11 hours.
- 2 She needs to _____ more time studying.
- 3 I hope we arrive _____ time. My dad is meeting me at the airport.
- 4 Don't _____ time doing things you don't enjoy.
- 5 We'll _____ time if we go on the freeway. There's much less traffic.
- 6 My wife gets very stressed when she's _____ a hurry.

4 READING

a Read the story.



The fisherman and the banker

A banker was on vacation abroad. He was walking on a beautiful beach near a small town. He saw a fisherman in his boat with a few fish in it.

"Great fish!" he said. "How long did it take you to catch them?"

"Not very long," answered the fisherman.

"Why didn't you stay in the ocean longer to catch some more?" asked the banker.

"There are just enough fish here to feed my family," answered the fisherman.

Then the banker asked, "But what do you do the rest of the time?"

"I sleep late, I fish a little, I play with my kids, and I relax. In the evening, I go to see my friends in the town. We play the guitar. I'm busier than you think. Life here isn't as..."

The banker interrupted him. "I have an MBA from Harvard University, and I can help you. You're not fishing as much as you can. If you start fishing for longer periods of time, you'll get enough money from selling the fish to buy a bigger boat. Then with the money you'll get from catching and selling more fish, you could buy a second boat, and then a third one, and so on. Then instead of selling your fish to stores, you could sell them directly to a fish factory, or even open your own factory. Then you'll be able to leave your little town for the city, and finally move to New York City, where you could run the company."

"How long will that take?" asked the fisherman.

"About 15 to 20 years," answered the banker.

"And then?"

"Then it gets more interesting," said the banker, smiling and talking more quickly. "When the moment comes, you can put your company on the stock market, and you will make millions."

"Millions? But then what?"

"Then you can retire, live in a small town by the ocean, go to the beach, sleep late, play with your kids..."

b Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The fisherman needed to catch more fish. F
- 2 The banker thought he was very busy. —
- 3 The banker wanted him to work harder. —
- 4 He told the fisherman to buy more boats. —
- 5 The banker said that he couldn't live in New York City. —
- 6 The banker promised the fisherman a lot of money. —

5 LISTENING

a **iChecker** Listen to five speakers talk about how their lives have changed. Who...?

- 1 has just started working from home —
- 2 has had a baby —
- 3 has lost his / her job —
- 4 has moved to a different country 1
- 5 has retired —

b **iChecker** Listen again. Which two people are happiest about the changes?

Who is the least happy?

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

abbreviations /əbrɪvi'eɪʃnz/

characters /'kærəktərz/

nowadays /'naʊədeɪz/

story /'stɔːri/

irritable /'ɪrətəbl/

patient (opp impatient) /'peɪʃnt/

line /laɪn/

stressed /strest/

stressful /'stresfl/

tips /tɪps/