

PRACTICE 1: COMPARATIVE & SUPERLATIVE

1 Choose the best explanation, A or B.

1. The prices on the menu aren't nearly as expensive as I expected.
A Prices are a little cheaper than I expected.
B Prices are much cheaper than I expected.
2. It looks as if your new car isn't any more reliable than the old one!
A Both cars are equally unreliable.
B The new car is slightly less reliable than the old one.
3. I have to say that the hotel wasn't quite as luxurious as the brochure claimed.
A The hotel was much less luxurious than the brochure claimed.
B The hotel was slightly less luxurious than the brochure claimed.
4. She isn't anything like as snobbish as you said.
A She is less snobbish than you said.
B She isn't snobbish.
5. I'm afraid your figures are no more accurate than the ones Rachel gave me.
A Your figures are less accurate than Rachel's.
B Your figures and Rachel's figures are equally inaccurate.
6. As far as Daniel's job is concerned, things are about as bad as they can be.
A Daniel's job could get worse.
B Daniel's job couldn't be any worse than it is.
7. Carol's nowhere near as efficient as my last assistant, Becky.
A Carol is slightly less efficient than Becky.
B Carol is much less efficient than Becky.
8. In his new job, Gerhard is working like a slave!
A Gerhard is an actor in a film about ancient Rome.
B Gerhard has to work very hard.

2 Choose the correct words in italics.

1. My exam results were *nearly not / not nearly* as good as Carmen's.
2. When Lucy gets dressed up she looks *as / like* a movie star.
3. It wasn't as exciting *film / a film* as his earlier ones.
4. Are you feeling OK? You're as *white as / whiter than* a sheet!
5. My new house is nothing *as / like* as big as my previous place.
6. Mobile phones seem to be getting *smaller and smaller / more small and more small*.
7. It's an unusual colour, *redder / more red* than pink.

8. When he was younger, my uncle worked *like* / *as* a porter in the local hospital.
9. It wasn't *such* / *so* a surprising piece of news as we'd expected.
10. The higher you climb, *the further than* / *the further* you have to fall.
11. When George tried to sing it was *like* / *as* a cat screeching!
12. This sweater isn't as *darker* / *dark* a colour as I'd wanted – can I exchange it?
13. The furnishings in the hotel rooms are comfortable rather *as* / *than* luxurious.
14. Carly is *nowhere* / *nothing* near as tolerant as her younger sister.
15. It wasn't as *easier* / *easy* a victory as everyone had expected.
16. As we approached the city, the roads became more *and* / *than* more crowded.
17. The further out you swim, *the colder* / *the more cold* the water gets.
18. Is it OK to use my date of birth *as* / *like* my PIN number?
19. I'm not as dedicated a fan of the band *than* / *as* I was when I was younger.
20. My bed is really comfortable, I slept *as* / *like* a log last night!

Image 2

3 GRAMMAR IN USE

Complete the text by writing one word only in each gap.

Teenage girls cause mayhem in California street races

For years illegal street races have been the scourge of Los Angeles. Weaving through the busy city streets in souped-up cars, amateur drivers race to win prizes of up to \$3,000. Crashes and fatalities are commonplace and the police seem unable to stop the menace because (1) _____ faster they chase the criminals, the (2) _____

they drive, causing even more damage. The drivers call these races 'cutting up' contests and their aim is to drive (3) _____ fast as possible through crowded streets, overtaking and 'cutting up' ordinary drivers.

The criminals use special cars – they look (4) _____ ordinary family cars to the naked eye, but in fact they have been fitted with fuel boosters. Although (5) _____

_____ nearly as powerful (6) _____

professional racing

cars, these vehicles can still reach high speeds and be extremely dangerous.

Ten years ago about ten people a year were killed in street races in the Los Angeles area. Now the figure is more than a hundred. As street races have grown more and (7) _____ dangerous, the police have been forced to take stronger action. The crackdown has resulted in a surprising discovery – most of the racers are teenage girls rather than teenage boys, and some are as young (8) _____ sixteen.

But to many members of the public this isn't (9) _____ a surprising revelation. Especially as many of these girls seem to be from the Asian community, perhaps modelling themselves on Nadine Toyoda, a Scottish-Japanese former street racer who has changed her ways and now works (10) _____ a legitimate racing driver.

Psychologists have blamed the crime wave on the influence of computer games, many of which feature street races. Teenagers want to be (11) _____ the drivers in these games. But driving in a game is fictional (12) _____ than real. When you crash a car in a computer game you simply start again. In real life the consequences are rather more serious.

4 Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word(s) in brackets, as in the example.

1. As students get closer to their exams they become more nervous. (*the more*)

The closer students **get to their exams, the more nervous they become.**

2. Their summer party wasn't anything like as good as their previous one. (*nothing*)

Their summer party their previous one.

3. My test score wasn't as bad as I'd feared. (*such*)

It wasn't I'd feared.

4. I'm bored rather than tired. (*not so much*)

I'm tired.

5. My friends claimed that the film was interesting but I found it pretty dull. (*film*)

It wasn't as

6. If you keep picking that spot it will get worse. (*the more*)

..... it will get.

7. She's slightly angry but she's very disappointed. (*than*)

She's angry.

8. We noticed the sound of the police siren becoming increasingly loud. (*and*)

We noticed the sound of the police siren

9. As dogs get older they become less aggressive. (*the less*)

The older dogs