

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.

- 1 Her illness was much more serious than we thought at first. (much / serious)
- 2 This bag is too small. I need something . (much / big)
- 3 I liked the museum. It was I expected. (much / interesting)
- 4 It was very hot yesterday. Today it's . (a bit / cool)
- 5 I'm afraid the problem is it seems. (far / complicated)
- 6 You're driving too fast. Can you drive ? (a bit / slowly)
- 7 It's to learn a language in a country where it is spoken. (a lot / easy)
- 8 I thought she was younger than me, but in fact she's . (slightly / old)

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 _____.
- 3 This shop isn't expensive. The prices are _____ anywhere else.
- 4 I need to stop for a rest. I can't walk _____.
- 5 The traffic isn't particularly bad today. It's _____ 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)
3 My bags seemed to get as I carried them. (heavy)
4 As I waited for my interview, I became (nervous)
5 As the day went on, the weather got (bad)
6 Health care is becoming (expensive)
7 Since Anna went to Canada, her English has got (good)
8 As the conversation went on, Paul became (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 worse and more serious.
- 3 The more time I have, the longer it takes me to do things.
- 4 I'm walking as fast as I can. I can't walk any faster.
- 5 The higher your income, the more tax you have to pay.
- 6 I'm surprised Anna is only 25. I thought she was older.
- 7 Jane's younger 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 earlier than 9.30.
- 10 Don't tell him anything. The less he knows, the better.

any
better
elder
~~less~~
less
longer
more
no
older
slightly
the

A

Study this example situation:



SARAH JOE DAVID

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 .
(not usually You're taller than I) | or You're taller than I am . |
| ☐ 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
- 3 You know a bit about cars, but I know more.
You don't
- 4 We are busy today, but we were busier yesterday.
We aren't
- 5 I still feel bad, but I felt a lot worse earlier.
I don't
- 6 Our neighbours have lived here for quite a long time, but we've lived here longer.
Our neighbours haven't
- 7 I was a little nervous before the interview, but usually I'm a lot more nervous.
I wasn't

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

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

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

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