

# 24 Comparison: adjectives and adverbs

I can use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs.

## Comparative and superlative adjectives

We use the comparative adjective with **than** to compare two people or things.



Pete is **stronger** than Tim.

We can use the comparative to compare two groups.  
**Doctors are richer than nurses.**

**Paris is more beautiful than Manchester.**

With the superlative, we use **the** before the adjective.

I've got three brothers. **Mike is the oldest.**

**Yesterday was the hottest day of the year.**

**'The Simpsons' is the most enjoyable programme on TV.**

After the adjective, we use **in** before places or nouns for a group of people (e.g. *team, family*).

We use the superlative adjective with **the** when we compare three or more things.



But Max is **the strongest**.

**It's the tallest building in my town.**

**Amy is the most intelligent person in the class.**

We use **of** before other nouns.

**It was the funniest film of the year.**

We can also use superlatives with the phrase **I've ever ...**

**This is the most interesting book I've ever read.**

See Reference page 175 for the spelling rules.

### \*1 Write the comparative forms of the adjectives.

► cheap	<u>cheaper</u>
1 old	_____
2 hot	_____
3 easy	_____
4 exciting	_____
5 late	_____
6 good	_____

7 difficult	_____
8 hard	_____
9 healthy	_____
10 thin	_____
11 bad	_____
12 useful	_____

### \*2 Write the superlative forms of the adjectives.

► clean	<u>the cleanest</u>
1 big	_____
2 lucky	_____
3 popular	_____
4 cold	_____
5 noisy	_____
6 boring	_____

### 3 Match 1–10 with a–j.

- 1 The burger is f
- 2 I think skiing is more
- 3 The computer is the most
- 4 I bought the
- 5 Is China the
- 6 Swimming is
- 7 It was the happiest day
- 8 The President is the most important person
- 9 Is America
- 10 My phone is more

a better for your health than playing rugby.  
 b cheapest T-shirt in the shop.  
 c in my country.  
 d modern than yours.  
 e more expensive than Britain?  
 f cheaper than the pizza.  
 g of her life.  
 h useful invention ever.  
 i biggest country in the world?  
 j dangerous than riding a horse.

### 4 24.1 Listen and complete the table with ✓, ✓✓ or ✓✓✓.

	Beth	Dora	Rosy
friendly	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
good at sport			
intelligent			
shy			
popular			



### 5 24.2 Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets. Listen and check.

► My room is tidier than my brother's. (tidy)  
 ► Isabel has the tidiest desk in the office. (tidy)

- 1 I think this is   train in the world!  
 (slow)
- 2 Ed looks   Oscar. (thin)
- 3 Football is   cricket. (exciting)
- 4 Football is   sport in the world.  
 (popular)
- 5 This is   day of the year. (hot)
- 6 I think we'll win. That team is   ours. (bad)



- 7 This is   village in the whole country. (pretty)
- 8 Mrs Symons is   teacher in the school. (good)
- 9 Taxis are   buses. (expensive)
- 10 Biology is   of all my subjects at school. (interesting)

### 6 Write the sentences.

► Jamie – funny – Henry  
Jamie is funnier than Henry.

► He – famous person – my town  
He is the most famous person in my town.

- 1 Russia – big – Korea
- 2 Russia – big country – the world
- 3 A computer – useful – a phone
- 4 Eiffel Tower – interesting building – Paris
- 5 Your shoes – dirty – mine
- 6 Lucy – good musician – orchestra
- 7 Monday – bad day – the week
- 8 Health – important – money

### 7

Work in pairs. Say an adjective from the box. Your partner uses it in a sentence about someone in his or her family.

confident friendly funny good at sport  
 intelligent old tall thin

Funny

My dad is the funniest person in my family.

Old

My brother is older than me.

## Not as ... as .../less ... than

We use **not as ... as ...** to make negative comparisons.  
*Egypt isn't as big as China.* (= China is bigger than Egypt.)  
*Tom isn't as tall as Jack.* (= Jack is taller than Tom.)

We can also use **less ... than**.  
*Your room is less tidy than mine.*  
*Playing sport is less important than studying.*

We can also make a negative superlative with the **least**.  
*He was the least helpful assistant in the shop.*

8 Look at the information about three computers. Then read the sentences and circle the correct options.

	<b>GX7</b>	<b>AP3</b>	<b>BB9</b>
Price	£499	£479	£525
How old?	3 months	6 months	1 year
How heavy?	0.95 kg	1.06 kg	0.78 kg
How thin?	9 mm	10 mm	8 mm
How fast?	1.33 GHz	1.00 GHz	0.77 GHz
How good?	*****	**	***

- ▶ The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as expensive as the **GX7**.
- 1 The **GX7 / BB9** isn't as old as the **AP3**.
- 2 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as heavy as the **GX7**.
- 3 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as thin as the **GX7**.
- 4 The **GX7 / BB9** isn't as fast as the **AP3**.
- 5 The **AP3 / GX7** isn't as good as the **BB9**.
- 6 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as cheap as the **GX7**.
- 7 The **GX7 / BB9** isn't as new as the **AP3**.
- 8 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as light as the **GX7**.

9 **GAME** Work in pairs. Choose a person in the picture, but don't tell your partner. Say two sentences using *not as ... as ...* and adjectives from the box. Can your partner guess the person?

tall short young old thin fat  
 happy sad

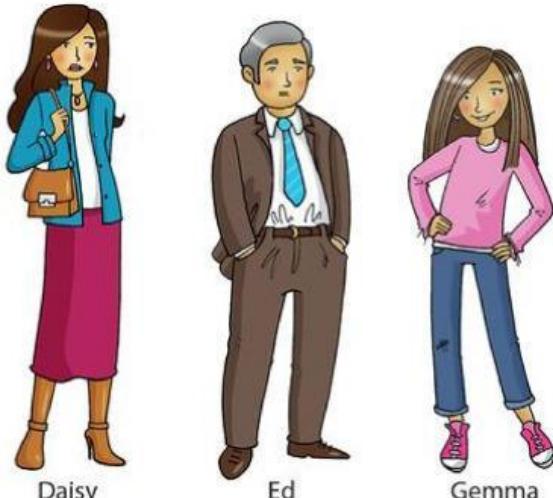
This person isn't as tall as Daisy.  
 Charlie isn't as happy as this person.

Is it Bella?



10 24.3 Look again at the people in exercise 9 and listen to the sentences. Write **Yes** if the sentence is correct, and **No** if it is not correct.

▶ Yes  
 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_



## \*11 Rewrite the comparisons using *not as ... as ...* or *less ... than*.

► Angie is more popular than me.

I'm not as popular as Angie.

I'm less popular than Angie.

1 Jason is more handsome than Theo.

2 Supermarkets are more useful than cafés.

3 Tokyo is noisier than London.

4 I'm taller than my teacher.

5 The chair is more comfortable than the floor.

6 She's more beautiful than me.

7 Pasta is healthier than chips.

8 Your bag is more expensive than mine.

## \*12 Look at the example. Write eight sentences using *not as ... as ...* and *less ... than* and the words in the table.

basketball	big
football	boring
skiing	dangerous
swimming	difficult
dentists	exciting
footballers	expensive
musicians	hot
nurses	popular
the Arctic	rich
India	useful
Britain	
Egypt	

Swimming isn't as exciting as basketball.

Nurses aren't as rich as footballers.

The Arctic is less popular than Egypt.

## Comparison of adverbs

We make the comparative and superlative of most adverbs by adding **more** and **the most** before the adverb.

*Polly did her homework **more quickly** than me.*

*Kate spoke **the most confidently**.*

Some short adverbs have a comparative form with **-er** and **-est**, like adjectives. For example: **early**, **fast**, **hard**, **late**, **long**, **loud**.

*Paul arrived **earlier** than me.*

*The journey took **longer** than normal.*

*Toby ran **the fastest**.*

There are some irregular adverbs:

well	better	the best
badly	worse	the worst
little	less	the least

We can also use **not as ... as ...** with adverbs.

*I **didn't do as well as** Jim in the exam.*

*The book **doesn't explain it as clearly as** our teacher.*

## \*13 24.4 Write the words in the correct order.

Listen and check.

► gets up/his brother/Henry/than/later  
Henry gets up later than his brother.

1 swims/me/than/Emily/better

2 harder/her friends/works/than/Cathy

3 drive/carefully/You/more/should

4 more loudly/everyone else/Ryan/than/is talking

5 He/his parents/eats/than/healthily/more

6 than/my brother/less/earn/l

7 the bus/more slowly/this train/than/is going

8 you/please/more/speak/Could/clearly

14 Complete the sentences with the correct comparative or superlative form of the adverb in brackets.

- She spoke more quietly than me. (quietly)
- I did the best in the whole school. (well)
- 1 We arrived \_\_\_\_\_ than everyone else. (late)
- 2 Jack didn't play as \_\_\_\_\_ as Tom. (well)
- 3 They've lived here \_\_\_\_\_ than us. (long)
- 4 Kim studies \_\_\_\_\_ in the whole class. (hard)
- 5 It's impossible to live \_\_\_\_\_. (cheaply)
- 6 The match doesn't start as \_\_\_\_\_ as usual. (early)
- 7 You should read the letter \_\_\_\_\_. (carefully)
- 8 Fred and Alex are lazy, but Pete works \_\_\_\_\_ of all. (little)
- 9 Eat \_\_\_\_\_, or you'll feel sick. (slowly)
- 10 No one in the band is very good but he definitely sings \_\_\_\_\_. (badly)

15 **GAME** Student A mimes an action. Student B guesses the action. Then student A chooses an adverb and mimes the action and the adverb. Student B guesses the adverb.

You're playing the guitar.

Yes.

Now you're playing it faster!

climb the stairs  
eat some chips  
make coffee  
play the guitar  
send a text message  
sit down  
walk  
write a letter

angrily  
badly  
carefully  
fast  
slowly  
strangely



16 Correct the mistakes.

► That was the **boringest** film I've ever seen.  
the most boring

- 1 Your computer is **faster** of mine.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Beth is **the more wonderful** person I know.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Vicky has got **more longer** hair than me.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 That was one of **the sadest moments** of my life.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 William isn't **as clever than** he thinks.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Leo can run **more fastly** than anyone else.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Who is **most popular person** in your class?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Some footballers are **famouser** than musicians.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 The Taj Mahal is perhaps **the most beautiful building of** the world.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 You need to listen **more careful**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11 That is **the dirtier** car I've ever seen.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12 This week's test was **more difficult that** I expected.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Self-evaluation** Rate your progress.



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