

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. 5.4
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.

- 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 <i>farther</i>)

adverbs

- 1 People walk **more quickly than** in the past. 5.5
- 2 My brother speaks French, but **less fluently** than me.
- 3 She doesn't drive **as fast as** her brother.

- 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.