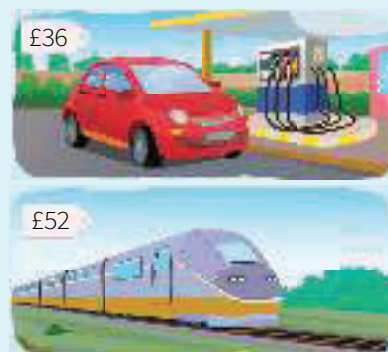


Comparative 1 (**cheaper, more expensive** etc.)**A** Look at these examples:

How shall we travel? Shall we drive or go by train?

Let's drive. It's **cheaper**.Don't go by train. It's **more expensive**.**Cheaper** and **more expensive** are *comparative* forms.After comparatives you can use **than** (see Unit 107):

- ☐ It's **cheaper** to drive **than** go by train.
- ☐ Going by train is **more expensive than** driving.

**B** The comparative form is **-er** or **more** ...We use **-er** for short words (one syllable):

cheap → cheaper **fast** → faster
large → larger **thin** → thinner

We also use **-er** for two-syllable words that end in **-y** (**-y** → **-ier**):

lucky → luckier **early** → earlier
easy → easier **pretty** → prettier

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

We use **more** ... for longer words (two syllables or more):

more serious **more expensive**
more often **more comfortable**

We also use **more** ... for adverbs that end in **-ly**:

more slowly **more seriously**
more easily **more quietly**

Compare these examples:

- ☐ You're **older** than me.
- ☐ The exam was quite easy – **easier** than I expected.
- ☐ Can you walk a bit **faster**?
- ☐ I'd like to have a **bigger** car.
- ☐ Last night I went to bed **earlier** than usual.

- ☐ You're **more patient** than me.
- ☐ The exam was quite difficult – **more difficult** than I expected.
- ☐ Can you walk a bit **more slowly**?
- ☐ I'd like to have a **more reliable** car.
- ☐ I don't play tennis much these days. I used to play **more often**.

We use both **-er** or **more** ... with some two-syllable adjectives, especially:**clever** **narrow** **quiet** **shallow** **simple**

- ☐ It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere **quieter**? or ... somewhere **more quiet**?

C A few adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms:**good/well** → **better**

- ☐ The garden looks **better** since you tidied it up.
- ☐ I know him well – probably **better** than anybody else knows him.

bad/badly → **worse**

- ☐ 'How's your headache? Better?' 'No, it's **worse**.'
- ☐ He did very badly in the exam – **worse** than expected.

far → **further** (or **farther**)

- ☐ It's a long walk from here to the park – **further** than I thought. (or **farther** than)

Note that **further** (*but not farther*) also means 'more' or 'additional':

- ☐ Let me know if you hear any **further** news. (= any more news)

Exercises

105.1 Complete the sentences using a comparative form (older / more important etc.).

- 1 This restaurant is very expensive. Let's go somewhere cheaper.
- 2 This coffee is very weak. I like it
- 3 The town was surprisingly big. I expected it to be
- 4 The hotel was surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be
- 5 The weather is too cold here. I'd like to live somewhere
- 6 Sometimes my job is a bit boring. I'd like to do something
- 7 It's a shame you live so far away. I wish you lived
- 8 It was quite easy to find a place to live. I thought it would be
- 9 Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do
- 10 Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be
- 11 You hardly ever call me. Why don't you call me?
- 12 You're too near the camera. Can you move a bit away?

105.2 Complete the sentences. Use the comparative forms of the words in the box. Use **than where necessary.**

big early high important interested peaceful ~~reliable~~ serious slowly thin

- 1 I was feeling tired last night, so I went to bed earlier than usual.
- 2 I'd like to have a more reliable car. The one I have keeps breaking down.
- 3 Unfortunately the problem was we thought at first.
- 4 You look Have you lost weight?
- 5 We don't have enough space here. We need a apartment.
- 6 James doesn't study very hard. He's in having a good time.
- 7 Health and happiness are money.
- 8 I like living in the country. It's living in a town.
- 9 I'm sorry I don't understand. Can you speak, please?
- 10 In some parts of the country, prices are in others.

105.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

than more worse quietly ~~longer~~ better careful frequent

- 1 Getting a visa was complicated. It took longer than I expected.
- 2 Sorry about my mistake. I'll try and be more in future.
- 3 Your English has improved. It's than it was.
- 4 You can travel by bus or by train. The buses are more than the trains.
- 5 You can't always have things immediately. You have to be patient.
- 6 I'm a pessimist. I always think things are going to get
- 7 We were busier usual in the office today. It's not usually so busy.
- 8 You're talking very loudly. Can you speak more?

105.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use a comparative form (-er or more ...).

- 1 Yesterday the temperature was six degrees. Today it's only three degrees.
It's colder today than it was yesterday.
- 2 Dan and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dan stopped after eight kilometres.
I ran Dan.
- 3 The journey takes four hours by car and five hours by train.
The journey takes train car.
- 4 I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.
My friends I expected.
- 5 There is always a lot of traffic here, but today the traffic is really bad.
The traffic today usual.

Comparative 3 (as ... as / than)

A

Study this example situation:



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 was it? Fifty dollars?' 'No, **not as much** as that.' (= **less than** fifty dollars)

You can also say **not so ... (as)**:

- ☐ It's not warm, but it's **not so cold as** yesterday. (= it's not **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.
- ☐ Can you send me the information **as soon as** possible, please?
- ☐ Let's walk. It's just **as quick as** taking the bus.

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.
(or ... **three times the size of** 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**. or You're taller **than I am**.
(*not usually* You're taller than I)
- ☐ 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**.

- I'm tall, but you are taller. I'm not as tall as you.
- My salary is high, but yours is higher. My salary isn't
- You know a bit about cars, but I know more.
You don't
- We are busy today, but we were busier yesterday.
We aren't
- I still feel bad, but I felt a lot worse earlier.
I don't
- Our neighbours have lived here for quite a long time, but we've lived here longer.
Our neighbours haven't
- 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.

- Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't as old as he looks.
- I didn't spend as much money as you. You spent more money than me.
- The station was nearer than I thought. The station wasn't
- The meal didn't cost as much as I expected. The meal cost
- I watch TV less than I used to. I don't
- Karen's hair isn't as long as it used to be. Karen used to
- I know them better than you do. You don't
- There are fewer students in this class than in the other one.
There aren't

107.3 Complete the sentences using **as ... as**. Choose from:

fast hard long often quietly soon well

- I'm sorry I'm late. I got here as fast as I could.
- It was a difficult question. I answered it I could.
- 'How long can I stay with you?' 'You can stay you like.'
- I need the information quickly, so let me know possible.
- I like to keep fit, so I go swimming I can.
- I didn't want to wake anybody, so I came in I could.
- You always say how tiring your job is, but I work just you.

107.4 Write sentences using **the same as**.

- David and James are both 22 years old. David is the same age as James.
- You and I both have dark brown hair. Your hair mine.
- I arrived at 10.25 and so did you. I arrived you.
- My birthday is 5 April. It's Tom's birthday too. My birthday Tom's.

107.5 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

as him is less me much soon than twice

- I'll let you know as soon as I have any more news.
- My friends arrived earlier I expected.
- I live in the same street Katherine. We're neighbours.
- He doesn't know much. I know more than
- This morning there was traffic than usual.
- I don't watch TV as as I used to.
- Your bag is quite light. Mine is as heavy as yours.
- We were born in the same year. I'm a little older than she
- I was really surprised. Nobody was more surprised than

Superlative (**the longest / the most enjoyable etc.**)**A** Look at these examples:

What is **the longest** river in the world?
 What was **the most enjoyable** holiday you've ever had?

Longest and **most enjoyable** are *superlative* forms.

The superlative form is **-est** or **most** In general, we use **-est** for short words and **most** ... for longer words.

long → longest	hot → hottest	easy → easiest	hard → hardest
<i>but</i> most famous	most boring	most enjoyable	most difficult

A few superlative forms are irregular:

good → **best** bad → **worst** far → **furthest** or **farthest**

The rules are the same as those for the comparative – see Unit 105.
 For spelling, see Appendix 6.

B We normally use **the** (or **my/your** etc.) with a superlative:

- ☐ Yesterday was **the hottest** day of the year.
- ☐ The Louvre in Paris is one of **the most famous** museums in the world.
- ☐ She is really nice – one of **the nicest** people I know.
- ☐ What's **the best** movie you've ever seen, and what's **the worst**?
- ☐ How old is **your youngest** child?

Compare the superlative and the comparative:

- ☐ This hotel is **the cheapest** in town. (*superlative*)
 It's **cheaper** than all the others in town. (*comparative*)
- ☐ He's **the most patient** person I've ever met.
 He's much **more patient** than I am.

C **oldest** and **eldest**

The superlative of **old** is **oldest**:

- ☐ That church is **the oldest** building in the town. (*not* the eldest)

We use **eldest** only when we talk about people in a family (you can also use **oldest**):

- ☐ **Their eldest son** is 13 years old. (*or* Their **oldest** son)
- ☐ Are you **the eldest** in your family? (*or* the **oldest**)

D After superlatives we normally use **in** with places:

- ☐ What's the longest river **in the world**? (*not* of the world)
- ☐ We had a nice room. It was one of the best **in the hotel**. (*not* of the hotel)

We also use **in** for organisations and groups of people (a class / a company etc.):

- ☐ Who is the youngest student **in the class**? (*not* of the class)

For a period of time (**day, year** etc.), we normally use **of**:

- ☐ Yesterday was the hottest day **of the year**.
- ☐ What was the happiest day **of your life**?

E We often use the *present perfect* (I **have done**) after a superlative (see also Unit 8A):

- ☐ What's **the most important** decision **you've ever made**?
- ☐ That was **the best** holiday **I've had** for a long time.

Exercises

108.1 Complete the sentences. Use the superlative forms (-est or most ...) of the words in the box.

bad cheap good honest popular short tall

- We didn't have much money, so we stayed at the cheapest hotel in the town.
- This building is 250 metres high, but it's not in the city.
- It was an awful day. It was day of my life.
- What is sport in your country?
- I like the morning. For me it's part of the day.
- Sarah always tells the truth. She's one of people I know.
- A straight line is distance between two points.

108.2 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) or a comparative (-er or more ...).

- We stayed at the cheapest hotel in the town. (cheap)
- Our hotel was cheaper than all the others in the town. (cheap)
- I wasn't feeling well yesterday, but I feel a bit today. (good)
- What's thing you've ever bought? (expensive)
- I prefer this chair to the other one. It's (comfortable)
- Amy and Ben have three daughters. is 14 years old. (old)
- Who is the person you know? (old)
- What's way to get to the station? (quick)
- Which is – the bus or the train? (quick)
- I can remember when I was three years old. It's memory. (early)
- Everest is mountain in the world. It is than any other mountain. (high)
- A: This knife isn't very sharp. Do you have a one?
B: No, it's one I have. (sharp)

108.3 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) + a preposition (of or in).

- It's a very good room. It's the best room in the hotel.
- Brazil is a very large country. It's South America.
- It was a very happy day. It was my life.
- This is a very valuable painting. It's the museum.
- Spring is a very busy time for me. It's the year.

In the following sentences use **one of** + a superlative + a preposition.

- It's a very good room. It's one of the best rooms in the hotel.
- He's a very rich man. He's one the country.
- She's a very good student. She's the class.
- It was a very bad experience. It was my life.
- It's a very famous university. It's the world.

108.4 What do you say in these situations? Use a superlative + ever.

- You've just been to the cinema. The movie was extremely boring. You tell your friend:
(boring / movie / ever / see) That's the most boring movie I've ever seen
- Someone has just told you a joke which you think is very funny. You say:
(funny / joke / ever / hear) That's
- You're drinking coffee with a friend. It's really good coffee. You say:
(good / coffee / ever / taste) This
- You have just run ten kilometres. You've never run further than this. You say:
(far / ever / run) That
- You gave up your job. Now you think this was a very bad mistake. You say:
(bad / mistake / ever / make) It
- Your friend meets a lot of people, some of them famous. You ask your friend:
(famous / person / ever / meet?) Who ?