

Comparison (1) – cheaper, more expensive etc.

A

Look at these examples:

How shall we travel? By car or by train?

Let's go by car. 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 also Unit 106):

- It's **cheaper** to go by car **than** by train.
- Going by train is **more expensive than** going by car.

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.

Compare these examples:

- You're **older** than me.
- The exam was quite easy – **easier** than we 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 can use **-er** or **more...** with some two-syllable adjectives, especially:

quiet **clever** **narrow** **shallow** **simple**

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

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

more modern **more serious**
more expensive **more comfortable**

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

more slowly **more seriously**
more quietly **more carefully**

Also: **more often**

but: **earlier** (not 'more early')

- You're **more patient** than me.
- The exam was quite difficult – **more difficult** than we 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**.

C

These 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.

bad/badly → **worse**:

- 'Is 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 station – **further** than I thought. (or ...**farther** than...)

Further (but not 'farther') can also mean 'more' or 'additional':

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

EXERCISES

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

- 1 It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere quieter?
- 2 This coffee is very weak. I like it a bit
- 3 The hotel 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 in this country. I'd like to live somewhere
- 6 My job is a bit boring sometimes. I'd like to do something
- 7 I was surprised how easy it was to use the computer. I thought it would be
- 8 Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do
- 9 Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be
- 10 I was surprised we got here so quickly. I expected the journey to take
- 11 You're talking very loudly. Can you speak a bit
- 12 You hardly ever phone me. Why don't you phone me
- 13 You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit away?
- 14 You were a bit depressed yesterday but you look today.

104.2 Complete the sentences. Each time use the comparative form of one of the words in the list. Use *than* where necessary.

big	crowded	early	easily	high	important
interested	peaceful	reliable	serious	simple	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've got keeps breaking down.
- 3 Unfortunately her illness was we thought at first.
- 4 You look Have you lost weight?
- 5 I want a flat. We don't have enough space here.
- 6 He doesn't study very hard. He's in having a good time.
- 7 Health and happiness are money.
- 8 The instructions were very complicated. They could have been
- 9 There were a lot of people on the bus. It was usual.
- 10 I like living in the countryside. It's living in a town.
- 11 You'll find your way around the town if you have a good map.
- 12 In some parts of the country, prices are in others.

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

- 1 Yesterday the temperature was nine degrees. Today it's only six degrees.
It's colder today than it was yesterday.
- 2 The journey takes four hours by car and five hours by train.
It takes
- 3 Dave and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dave stopped after eight kilometres.
I ran
- 4 Chris and Joe both did badly in the exam. Chris got 20% but Joe only got 15%.
Joe did
- 5 I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.
My friends
- 6 You can go by bus or by train. The buses run every 30 minutes. The trains run every hour.
The buses
- 7 We were very busy at work today. We're not usually as busy as that.
We

Comparison (2)

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 It's **a lot cheaper**.)
- Don't go by train. It's **a lot more expensive**. (or It's **much more expensive**.)
- Could you speak **a bit more slowly**? (or ...speak **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**... or ...**a lot more serious**...)

B

You can use **any** and **no** + comparatives (**any longer** / **no bigger** etc.):

- I've waited long enough. I'm not waiting **any longer**. (= not even a little longer)
- We expected their house to be very big but it's **no bigger** than ours. (or...it isn't **any bigger** than ours.)
- Yesterday you said you felt ill. Do you feel **any better** today?
- This hotel is better than the other one and it's **no more expensive**.

C

Harder and harder / **more and more** / **more and more difficult** etc.

We repeat comparatives like this (...and...) to say that something is changing continuously:

- It's becoming **harder and harder** to find a job.
- It's becoming **more and more difficult** to find a job.
- Your English is improving. It's getting **better and better**.
- These days **more and more** people are learning English.

D

The...the better

Study these examples:

- 'What time shall we leave?' 'The **sooner the better**.' (= as soon as possible)
- 'What sort of box do you want? A big one?' 'Yes, the **bigger the better**.' (= as big as possible)
- When you're travelling, **the less luggage** you have to carry **the better**. (= it is best to have as little luggage as possible)

We also use **the...the...** (with two comparatives) 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 sooner** 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 elderThe comparative of old is **older**:

- Tom looks **older** than he really is.

You can use **elder** (or **older**) when you talk about people in a family. You can say (my) **elder brother/sister/son/daughter**:

- My **elder brother** is a pilot. (or My **older brother**...)

We say 'my **elder brother**' but we do not say that 'somebody is elder...':

- My brother is **older** than me. (not 'elder than me')

For **eldest**, see Unit 107D.

EXERCISES

105.1 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'm afraid the problem is it seems. (much / complicated)
- 4 You looked depressed this morning but you look now. (a bit / happy)
- 5 I enjoyed our visit to the museum. It was I expected. (far / interesting)
- 6 You're driving too fast. Could you drive? (a bit / slowly)
- 7 It's to learn a foreign language in the country where it is spoken. (a lot / easy)
- 8 I thought she was younger than me but in fact she's (slightly / old)

105.2 Complete the sentences using **any/no** + a comparative. Use **than** where necessary.

- 1 I'm fed up with waiting. 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 must stop for a rest. I can't walk
- 5 The traffic isn't particularly bad today. It's usual.

105.3 Complete the sentences using the structure in Section C (...and...).

- 1 It's becoming harder and harder to find a job. (hard)
- 2 That hole in your pullover 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 Travelling is becoming (expensive)
- 7 Since she has been in Britain, her English has got (good)
- 8 As the conversation went on, he became (talkative)

105.4 These sentences are like those in Section D. Use the word(s) in brackets (in the correct form) to complete the sentences.

- 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 She had to wait a very long time.
The longer she waited, (impatient/become)

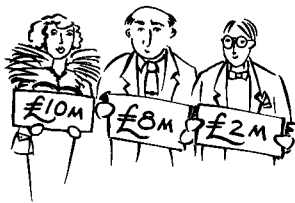
105.5 Which is correct, older or elder? Or both of them?

- 1 My older / elder brother is a pilot. (older and elder are both correct)
- 2 I'm surprised Diane is only 25. I thought she was older / elder.
- 3 Ann's younger sister is still at school. Her older / elder sister is a nurse.
- 4 Martin is older / elder than his brother.

Comparison (3) – **as...as / than**

A

Study this example situation:



Shirley, Henry and Arthur are all millionaires. They are all very rich.
Shirley has £10 million, Henry has £8 million and Arthur has £2 million. So:

Henry is rich.
He is **richer than** Arthur.
But he **isn't as rich as** Shirley. (= Shirley is **richer than** he is)

SHIRLEY HENRY ARTHUR

Some more examples of **not as... (as)**:

- Tom **isn't as old as** he looks. (= he looks **older than** he is)
- The city centre **wasn't as crowded** this morning **as** it usually is. (= it is usually **more crowded**)
- Jenny **didn't do as well** in the exam **as** she had hoped. (= she had hoped to do **better**)
- 'The weather is better today, isn't it?' 'Yes, it's **not as cold**.' (= yesterday was **colder**)
- I **don't know as many people as** you do. (= you know **more people**)

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...)
- The city centre was **less crowded than** usual. (= it **wasn't as crowded as**...)

B

You can 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 like.
- Let's walk. It's **just as quick as** taking the bus.
- Can you send me the money **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'):

- Ann's salary is **the same as** mine. or Ann gets **the same** salary as me.
- Tom is **the same age as** George.
- 'What would you like to drink?' 'I'll have **the same as** you.'

D

Than me / than I am etc.

We usually say:

- You are taller **than me**. (not 'than I')
- He is not as clever **as her**. (not 'as she')

After **than/as** it is more usual to say **me/him/her/them/us** when there is no verb. Compare:

- | | | |
|--|------------|---------------------------------------|
| • You are taller than I am . | <i>but</i> | You are taller than me . |
| • They have more money than we have . | <i>but</i> | They have more money than us . |
| • I can't run as fast as he can . | <i>but</i> | I can't run as fast as him . |

EXERCISES

106.1 Complete the sentences using *as...as*.

- I'm quite 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
- It's still cold but it was colder yesterday. It isn't
- I still feel a bit tired but I felt a lot more tired yesterday.
I don't
- They've lived here for quite a long time but we've lived here longer.
They haven't
- I was a bit nervous before the interview but usually I'm a lot more nervous.
I wasn't

106.2 Rewrite these sentences so that they have 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
- I go out less than I used to. I don't
- Her hair isn't as long as it used to be. She used to
- I know them better than you do. You don't
- There were fewer people at this meeting than at the last one.
There weren't

106.3 Complete the sentences using *as...as*. Choose one of the following:

bad comfortable ~~fast~~ long often quietly soon well well-qualified

- I'm sorry I'm a bit 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 please 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.

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

- I'm going to sleep on the floor. It's sleeping in that hard bed.
- Why did he get the job rather than me? I'm him.
- At first I thought you were nice but really you're everybody else.

106.4 Write sentences using the same *as*.

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

106.5 Complete the sentences with *than... or as... .*

- I can't reach as high as you. You are taller *than me*.
- He doesn't know much. I know more
- I don't work particularly hard. Most people work as hard
- We were very surprised. Nobody was more surprised
- She's not a very good player. I'm a better player
- They've been very lucky. I wish we were as lucky

Superlatives – the longest / the most enjoyable etc.

A Study 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.

B The superlative form is **-est** or **most...** . In general, we use **-est** for short words and **most...** for longer words. (The rules are the same as those for the comparative – see Unit 104.)

	long → longest	hot → hottest	easy → easiest	hard → hardest
but	most famous	most boring	most difficult	most expensive

These adjectives are irregular:

good → best	bad → worst	far → furthest
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For spelling, see Appendix 6.

C We normally use **the** before a superlative (**the longest / the most famous** etc.):

- Yesterday was **the hottest** day of the year.
- That film was really boring. It was **the most boring** film I've ever seen.
- She is a really nice person – one of **the nicest** people I know.
- Why does he always come to see me at **the worst** possible moment?

Compare:

- This hotel is **the cheapest** in town. (*superlative*)
- This hotel is **cheaper** than all the others in town. (*comparative*)

D **Oldest and eldest**

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

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

We use **eldest** (*or oldest*) when we are talking about people in a family:

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

E After superlatives we use **in** with places (towns, buildings etc.):

- What is the longest river **in the world**? (*not* 'of the world')
- We had a lovely room. It was one of the nicest **in the hotel**. (*not* 'of the hotel')

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

- Who is the best student **in the class**? (*not* 'of the class')

We normally use **of** for a period of time:

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

F We often use the *present perfect* (I **have done**) after a superlative (see also Unit 10A):

- What's **the best** film you've ever seen?
- That was **the most delicious** meal I've had for a long time.

G Sometimes we use **most** + adjective to mean 'very':

- The book you lent me was **most interesting**. (= very interesting)
- Thank you for the money. It was **most generous** of you. (= very generous)

EXERCISES

107.1 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most...) + a preposition.

- 1 It's a very nice room. It is the nicest room in the hotel.
- 2 It's a very cheap restaurant. It's the town.
- 3 It was a very happy day. It was my life.
- 4 She's a very intelligent student. She the class.
- 5 It's a very valuable painting. It the gallery.
- 6 Spring is a very busy time for me. It the year.

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

- 7 It's a very nice room. It is one of the nicest rooms in the hotel.
- 8 He's a very rich man. He's one the world.
- 9 It's a very old castle. It Britain.
- 10 She's a very good player. She the team.
- 11 It was a very bad experience. It my life.
- 12 He's a very dangerous criminal. He the country.

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

- 1 We stayed at the cheapest hotel in the town. (cheap)
- 2 Our hotel was cheaper than all the others in the town. (cheap)
- 3 The United States is very large but Canada is (large)
- 4 What's river in the world? (long)
- 5 He was a bit depressed yesterday but he looks today. (happy)
- 6 It was an awful day. It was day of my life. (bad)
- 7 What is sport in your country? (popular)
- 8 Everest is mountain in the world. It is than any other mountain. (high)
- 9 We had a great holiday. It was one of the holidays we've ever had. (enjoyable)
- 10 I prefer this chair to the other one. It's (comfortable)
- 11 What's way of getting from here to the station? (quick)
- 12 Mr and Mrs Brown have got three daughters. is 14 years old. (old)

107.3 What do you say in these situations? Use a superlative + ...ever... Use the words given in brackets (in the correct form).

- 1 You've just been to the cinema. The film was extremely boring. You tell your friend: (boring/film/see) That's the most boring film I've ever seen.
- 2 Your friend has just told you a joke, which you think is very funny. You say: (funny/joke/hear) That's
- 3 You're drinking coffee with a friend. It's really good coffee. You say: (good/coffee/taste) This
- 4 You are talking to a friend about Mary. Mary is very patient. You tell your friend about her: (patient/person/meet) She
- 5 You have just run ten kilometres. You've never run further than this. You say to your friend: (far/run) That
- 6 You decided to give up your job. Now you think this was a bad mistake. You say to your friend: (bad/mistake/make) It
- 7 Your friend meets a lot of people, some of them famous. You ask your friend: (famous/person/meet?) Who?

UNIT 103

103.1

- 2 quite a good voice.
- 3 quite a long way.
- 4 quite a busy day.
- 5 quite a nice time.
- 6 quite a strong wind.
- 7 quite a frightening experience.
- 8 quite a lot of mistakes.

103.2

- 2 quite well but it's rather noisy
- 3 rather long but quite interesting
- 4 quite a hard worker but he's rather slow
- 5 rather disappointed ... quite pleased
- 6 quite a well-paid job but it's rather hard work
- 7 quite near us but it's rather difficult...

103.3

- 3 more than a little...
- 4 completely
- 5 more than a little...
- 6 more than a little...
- 7 completely

103.4

- 2 quite safe.
- 3 quite impossible.
- 4 quite right.
- 5 quite different.
- 6 quite unnecessary.
- 7 quite sure.
- 8 quite amazing.

UNIT 104

104.1

- 2 stronger
- 3 smaller
- 4 more expensive
- 5 warmer
- 6 more interesting
- 7 more difficult
- 8 better
- 9 worse
- 10 longer
- 11 more quietly
- 12 more often
- 13 further
- 14 happier / more cheerful

104.2

- 3 more serious than
- 4 thinner
- 5 bigger
- 6 more interested
- 7 more important than
- 8 simpler / more simple
- 9 more crowded than

- 10 more peaceful than
- 11 more easily
- 12 higher than

104.3

- 2 It takes longer by train than by car.
- 3 I ran further than Dave.
- 4 Joe did worse than Chris.
- 5 My friends arrived earlier than I expected.
- 6 The buses run more often than the trains. *or* ...run more frequently than the trains. *or* The buses are more frequent than the trains.
- 7 We were busier than usual at work today. *or* We were busier at work today than usual.

UNIT 105

105.1

- 2 much bigger
- 3 much more complicated than
- 4 a bit happier
- 5 far more interesting than
- 6 a bit more slowly
- 7 a lot easier
- 8 slightly older

105.2

- 2 any earlier
- 3 no more expensive than
- 4 any further
- 5 no worse than

105.3

- 2 bigger and bigger
- 3 heavier and heavier
- 4 more and more nervous
- 5 worse and worse
- 6 more and more expensive
- 7 better and better
- 8 more and more talkative

105.4

- 2 the more I liked him *or* the more I got to like him
- 3 the more your profit (will be) *or* the higher your profit (will be) *or* the more profit you will make
- 4 the harder it is to concentrate
- 5 the more impatient she became

105.5

- 2 older
- 3 older *or* elder
- 4 older

UNIT 106

106.1

- 2 as high as yours.
- 3 You don't know as much about cars as me. or ...as I do.
- 4 It isn't as cold today as it was yesterday.
- 5 I don't feel as tired today as I felt yesterday. or ...as I did...
- 6 They haven't lived here as long as us. or ...as we have.
- 7 I wasn't as nervous before the interview as I usually am. or ...as usual.

106.2

- 3 The station wasn't as far as I thought.
- 4 The meal cost less than I expected. / ...was cheaper than I expected. / ...wasn't as expensive as I expected.
- 5 I don't go out as much as I used to. / ...as often as I used to.
- 6 She used to have longer hair.
- 7 You don't know them as well as me. or ...as I do.
- 8 There weren't as many people at this meeting as at the last one.

106.3

- 2 as well as
- 3 as long as
- 4 as soon as
- 5 as often as
- 6 as quietly as
- 7 just as comfortable as
- 8 just as well-qualified as
- 9 just as bad as

106.4

- 2 Your hair is the same colour as mine.
- 3 I arrived at the same time as you (did).
- 4 My birthday is (on) the same day as Tom's. or My birthday is the same as Tom's.

106.5

- 2 than him / than he does
- 3 as me / as I do
- 4 than us / than we were
- 5 than her / than she is
- 6 as them / as they have been

UNIT 107

107.1

- 2 It's the cheapest restaurant in the town.
- 3 It was the happiest day of my life.

- 4 She is the most intelligent student in the class.
- 5 It is the most valuable painting in the gallery.
- 6 It is the busiest time of the year.
- 8 He's one of the richest men in the world.
- 9 It is one of the oldest castles in Britain.
- 10 She is one of the best players in the team.
- 11 It was one of the worst experiences of my life.
- 12 He is one of the most dangerous criminals in the country.

107.2

- 3 larger
- 4 the longest
- 5 happier
- 6 the worst
- 7 the most popular
- 8 the highest ... higher
- 9 most enjoyable
- 10 more comfortable
- 11 the quickest
- 12 The oldest or The eldest

107.3

- 2 That's the funniest joke I've ever heard.
- 3 This is the best coffee I've ever tasted.
- 4 She is the most patient person I've ever met.
- 5 That's the furthest (or farthest) I've ever run.
- 6 It is/was the worst mistake I've ever made.
- 7 Who is the most famous person you've ever met?

UNIT 108

108.1

- 3 Jim doesn't like football very much.
- 4 *right*
- 5 I ate my dinner quickly...
- 6 Are you going to invite a lot of people to the party?
- 7 *right*
- 8 Did you go to bed late last night?
- 9 *right*
- 10 *right*
- 11 I met a friend of mine on my way home.
- 12 I fell off my bicycle yesterday.

108.2

- 2 We won the game easily.
- 3 I closed the door quietly.
- 4 Diane speaks German quite well.
- 5 Tim watches television all the time.