

Comparison 1 (cheaper, more expensive etc.)

A Study 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** → thinnerWe 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 often****more expensive****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**.

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

- ☐ It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere **quieter** / **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)

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

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

105.1 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
- 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 here. I'd like to live somewhere
- 6 My job is a bit boring sometimes. I'd like to do something
- 7 It's a shame you live so far away. I wish you lived
- 8 I was surprised how easy it was to get a job. 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 I was surprised we got here so quickly. I expected the trip to take
- 12 You're talking very loudly. Can you speak ?
- 13 You hardly ever call me. Why don't you call me ?
- 14 You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit away?
- 15 You were a little depressed yesterday, but you look today.

105.2 Complete the sentences. Use the comparative forms of the words in the box. 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 have keeps breaking down.
- 3 Unfortunately her illness was we thought at first.
- 4 You look Have you lost weight?
- 5 I want a apartment. 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 country. 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.

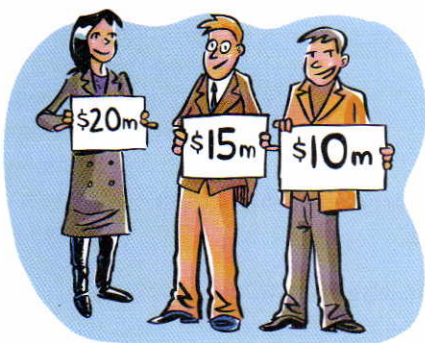
105.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use a comparative form (-er or more ...).

- 1 Yesterday the temperature was six degrees. Today it's only three degrees.
It's colder today than it was yesterday.
- 2 The journey takes four hours by car and five hours by train.
It takes by car.
- 3 Dan and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dan stopped after eight kilometres.
I ran Dan.
- 4 Chris and Joe both did badly in the test. Chris got 30%, but Joe only got 25%.
Joe did Chris in the test.
- 5 I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.
My friends I expected.
- 6 You can go by bus or by train. The buses run every 30 minutes. The trains run every hour.
The buses the trains.
- 7 We were very busy in the office today. We're not usually so busy.
We usual in the office today.

Comparison 3 (as ... as / than)

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**. 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**.

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 go out 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 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

- 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.

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

- I'm going to sleep on the floor. It's the bed.
- You always say how tiring your job is, but I work you.
- At first I thought he was nice, but really he's everybody else.

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 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