Unit **105** 

## 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.



В

The comparative form is -er or more ....

We use -er for short words (one syllable):

 $\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{cheap} \rightarrow \textbf{cheaper} & \textbf{fast} \rightarrow \textbf{faster} \\ \textbf{large} \rightarrow \textbf{larger} & \textbf{thin} \rightarrow \textbf{thinner} \end{array}$ 

We also use -er for two-syllable words that end in -y (-y  $\rightarrow$  ier):

 $lucky \rightarrow luckier$   $early \rightarrow earlier$  $easy \rightarrow easier$   $pretty \rightarrow prettier$ 

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  $more \dots$  for adverbs that end in -ly:

more slowly more seriously more easily more quietly

Compare these examples:

- O 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:

 $good/well \rightarrow better$ 

- 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)

lt'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)

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## Comparison 3 (as ... as / than)

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)

	SARAH JOE DAVID
	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 <b>not so</b> (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)
В	We also use <b>as as</b> (but not so as) in positive sentences and in questions:  I'm sorry I'm late. I got here <b>as fast as</b> I could.  There's plenty of food. You can have <b>as much as</b> you want.  Let's walk. It's <b>just as quick as</b> taking the bus.  Can you send me the information <b>as soon as possible</b> , 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 <b>the same as</b> (not the same like):  Laura's salary is <b>the same as</b> mine. or Laura gets <b>the same</b> salary <b>as</b> me.  David is <b>the same</b> age <b>as</b> James.  Sarah hasn't changed. She still looks <b>the same as</b> she did ten years ago.
D	Than me / than I am etc.
	You can say:  You're taller than me.  (not usually You're taller than I)  He's not as clever as her.  They have more money than us.  or You're taller than I am.  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 <b>as him</b> . or I can't run as fast <b>as he can</b> .

## **Exercises**

107.1 Complete the sentences using as as.	
1 I'm tall, but you are taller. I'm not as to	ill as you.
2 My salary is high, but yours is higher. My s	salary isn't
3 You know a bit about cars, but I know mor	
You don't	
4 We are busy today, but we were busier yes	terday.
	=
5 I still feel bad, but I felt a lot worse earlier.	
I don't	
6 Our neighbours have lived here for quite a	long time, but we've lived here longer.
Our neighbours haven't	
7 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 meani	ing.
1 Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't	as old as he looks
2 I didn't spend as much money as you. You	spent more money than me
3 The station was nearer than I thought. Th	e station wasn't
4 The meal didn't cost as much as I expecte	d. The meal cost
5 I go out less than I used to. I don't	
6 Karen's hair isn't as long as it used to be.	Karen used to
7 I know them better than you do. You don	't
8 There are fewer people at this meeting that	an at the last one.
There aren't	
107.3 Complete the sentences using as as + th	
107.3 Complete the sentences using as as + the	ne following: long often quietly soon well
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