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GRAMMAR - The comparatives

Comparatives are used to compare two things and to highlight the superiority, inferiority or equality of one term to another.

SUPERIORITY	EQUALITY	INFERIORITY
a) short adjectives: [*] adjective + -ER THAN Example: Peter is taller than Sandra. b) Long adjectives: [*] MORE + adjective + THEN Example: A Ferrari is more expensive than a Mini.	short and long adjectives: AS + adjective + AS Example: English is as easy as German.	short and long adjective: LESS+adj + THAN Example: July is less cold than January.

* **short adjectives:** are 1-syllable adjectives and 2-syllable adjectives ending in **-y (ex: pretty)**.

* **long adjectives:** all the other adjectives.

Orthographic changes:

- If the adjective ends in **"y"** the **"y"** becomes **"i"**: **heavy- heavier**.

- If the adjective ends in **"e"** only an **"r"** is needed: **wise- wiser**.

- If the adjective ends with a **"single vowel + consonant"** the consonant is doubled and you add **"er"**: **big-bigger**.

Irregular forms:

These adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms.

- **Good/ well- better**. Example: the garden looks better now.

- **Bad/ badly- worse**. Example: is your teacher better? No, she is worse.

- **Far/ further**. Example: It's a long walk from here to the station. Further than I think.

* further= can also mean **"more"** or **"additional"**. Example: for further information check the website.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences using a comparative form.

1. There is too much noise here. Can we go somewhere (quiet) ___ calmer___?
2. The coffee is very weak. I like it a little (strong) ___ stronger_____.
3. The hotel is surprisingly large. I expected it to be (small) _____ smaller _____.
4. The hotel is surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be (expensive) ___more expensive_____.
5. The weather is too cold in this country. I would like to live somewhere (warm) ___ warmer_____.
6. My job is sometimes a bit boring. I would like to do something (exciting) _____more exciting_____.
7. It amazes me how easy it is to use the computer. I thought it would be (difficult) _____more difficult_____.
8. Your work is not very good. I'm sure you can do (well) _____more well_____.
9. Don't worry. The situation is not so bad. It could be (bad) _____more bad_____.
10. I'm surprised we got here so fast. I expected the trip to take (longer) ___ longer_____.
11. You are speaking too loud. Can you speak a little (in a low voice) ___more in a low voice_____?
12. You are too close to the camera. Can you move a little (far) _____ further_____?
13. You were a bit depressed but you look (happy) ___ happier_____ today.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using as... as.

1. I am quite tall but you are taller. I am not as tall as you.
2. My salary is high but yours is higher. My salary is not as high as yours.
3. You know a little about cars, but I know more. No as much as I do.
4. I am very nervous but you are more nervous. I am not as nervous as you are.
5. I feel tired and so do you. I'm as tired as you.

Exercise 3. Rewrite these sentences so that they have the same meaning.

1. Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't as old as he looks.
2. I don't spend as much money as you. You don't spend as much money as I do.
3. The station is closer than you thought. The station is not as close as I thought.
4. The food does not cost as much as I expected. Food costs as much as I expected

5. I go out less than before. I don't go out as much as before.
6. Your hair is not as long as it used to be. She has hair as long as before.

Exercise 4. Write the adjectives in brackets in the comparative form.

1. John Lennon was (old) as older as Paul McCartney.
2. Some people think the Met is (good) as bad as the Louvre.
3. Eric was (scared) as much as he was in Harlem on the subway.
4. Cats are (nice) just as nice as dogs.
5. Cartoons are (good) as good as music shows.
6. The Empire State Building is (big) as big as the Chrysler Building.
7. Barcelona is (small) as small as Madrid, but (large) as big as Valencia.
8. Scotland is colder (colder) than the south of England.
9. I like cats, they are more interesting (interesting) than dogs.
10. Charity shops are cheaper (cheaper) than other shops.
11. Buy that MP3 player. It is better (good) than the other.
12. I spend a lot of time with Petra - she is friendlier (friendly) than the other students.
13. In winter, Venice is calmer (quiet) than in summer.
14. The math test was bad, but the physics was even more bad (bad)!

Exercise 5. Complete the sentences. Use a superlative or comparative. Completa las oraciones usando superlativos o comparativos.

1. We stayed in the cheapest hotel in town (cheap).
2. Our hotel was cheaper than all the others in the city (cheap).
3. America is very big, but Canada is bigger (bigger).
4. What is the longest river in the world? (long).
5. Yesterday I was a little depressed, but today you look happier (happy).
6. Today is a terrible day. It's the baddest day of my life (bad).
7. What is the most popular sport in your country? (popular).
8. Everest is the highest mountain in the world (high).
9. This is the most beautiful vacation we've ever had (beautiful).
10. I prefer this chair to the other. It is more comfortable. (comfortable).

Exercise 6. Complete the chart. Completa la table con el **comparativo o superlativo** faltante.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
cold	colder	the coldest
high	higher	the highest
hot	hoter	the hottest
dangerous	the most dangerous	the dangest
good	better	The best
bad	worse	The worset

Exercise 7. Write the adjectives in brackets in the **superlative form**.

- Samantha is the (pretty) girl ____ prettiest ____ Paul has ever met.
- I think King Kong was the baddest (bad) movie of all time!
- Mounth Everest is the highest (highest) mountain in the world.
- Our English teacher is the (good) best teacher of all time!
- My room is the cleanest (cleanest) room in my house.
- Ron is the smartest (intelligent) person I have ever met.
- The Millennium Star is one of the most expensive diamonds_____ (expensive) in the world.
- David is _____ most pleasant_____ (pleasant) of the three brothers.
- Why do you always buy a more expensive dress_____ (expensive) at the store?
- What is the fastest way. (quick) to get to the city center?
- I think Venice is more beautiful. (beautiful) city in the world.
- Sarah is a friendly girl. (friendly) in my office.
- Chemistry is my worst (bad) subject.
- I think Imagine is a better (good) song that John Lennon wrote.

Exercise 8. Complete the sentences with "too" or "enough".

1. I let the coffee cool for a minute because it is too hot to drink.
2. Not too strong to lift that heavy box.
3. There are not __enough____ policemen in our city.
4. Do you have __enough____ information to help me with this problem?
5. It is too difficult for a young child to do.
6. I don't have __enough and____ time to make dinner.
7. I will not buy the car because it is ___too___ expensive.
8. You are not working hard __enough____ to pass the test.
9. My mom can't sleep because ____ too much coffee.
10. You are not __enough____ to start driving.

Exercise 9. Complete the sentences with and adverb or an adjective. Use the words in the box.

quickly safe brilliant loudly late careless hard happy easy slowly

1. The bus drove ___fast_____ over the bridge.
2. You should not speak loudly in a theater.
3. Someone __careless_____ ran into that tree yesterday.
4. Many people think that Pierce Brosnan is a ___bright_____ actor.
5. If you are ___happy_____, I am happy.
6. Gretchen works ___late_____ on her homework every night.
7. The train leaves at 6.00. Don't be___slow_____!
8. I can smell gas. Are ___safe_____ here?
9. I couldn't ask the first question, but the second question was ___easy_____.
10. The girl walked _____happily___ in the park.

Exercise 10. Write a sentence with each one of the adverbs given.

1. out loud ___ I don't speak out loud when I'm in the library_____

2. politely ___I behave politely with important people

3. early ___ I get up early for breakfast

4. well _____well, we have to go_____