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Nombre del trabajo: Unit Activity #1 - Unit 3

Materia: Ingles

PASIÓN POR EDUCAR

Grado: 4TO cuatrimestre

**Grupo: técnico en administración de
recursos humanos**

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. It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere (quiet) quieter?
2. The coffee is very weak. I like it a bit (strong) stronger
3. The hotel is surprisingly big. I expected it to be (small) smaller
4. The hotel is surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be (expensive) expensiver
5. The weather is too cold in this country. I'd like to live somewhere (warm) warmer
6. My job is a bit boring sometimes. I'd like to do something (exciting) excitinger
7. I'm surprised how easy it is to use the computer. I thought it would be (difficult) difficulter
8. Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do (good) gooder
9. Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be (bad) bader
10. I'm surprised we got here so quickly. I expected the journey to take (long) longer
11. You're talking very loudly. Can you speak a bit (quietly) quietlyer?
12. You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit (far) farer away?
13. You were a bit depressed but you look (happy) happier today.

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

1. I'm quite tall but you are taller. I'm not as tall as you.
2. My salary but higher. My salary yours is isn't high as as yours.
3. You know a bit about cars but I know more. You don't know as much about cars as I do
4. I'm very nervous but you are more. I'm not as nervous as you
5. I feel tired and you too. I'm as tires 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 you seem to .
3. The station is nearer than I thought. The station isn't. The station is not as far away as it seems
4. The meal doesn't cost as much as I expected. The meal it's not as expensive as it seems.
5. I go out less than before. I don't I don't as before .
6. Her hair isn't as long as it was. She not it has long as before

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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) are as good the Louvre.
3. Eric was (afraid) so afraid in Harlem has in the Subway.
4. Cats are (nice) as nice dogs.
5. Cartoons are (good) as good music programmes.
6. The Empire State is (big) as big the Chrysler Building.
7. Barcelona is (small) as small Madrid, but (big) as big Valencia.
8. Scotland is as cold (cold) than the South of England.
9. I like cats - they're as interesting (interesting) than dogs.
10. Charity shops are as cheap (cheap) than other shops.
11. Buy that MP3 player. It's as good (good) than the other one.
12. I spend a lot of time with Petra - she's as friendly (friendly) than the other students.
13. In winter, Venice is as quiet (quiet) than in summer.
14. The maths exam was bad, but physics was even as bad (bad)!