



Nombre de alumno: David Ramirez López

Nombre del profesor: Juan Manuel Jaime

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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. 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) more expensive .
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) exciter .
7. I'm surprised how easy it is to use the computer. I thought it would be (difficult) more difficult .
8. Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do (good) better .
9. Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be (bad) worse .
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) quieter ?
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 is high but yours is higher. My salary isn't as high as you .
3. You know a bit about cars but I know more. You don't as know .
4. I'm very nervous but you are more. I'm not has nervous has you .
5. I feel tired and you too. I'm has tired has 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 as spend much money .
3. The station is nearer than I thought. The station isn't as far as thought .
4. The meal doesn't cost as much as I expected. The meal not as cost as expected .
5. I go out less than before. I don't out much .
6. Her hair isn't as long as it was. She has short hair .

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