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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) More exciting.
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) more good.
9. Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be (bad) more bad.
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) more silent?
12. You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit (far) further 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 yours.
3. You know a bit about cars but I know more. You don't know as much 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 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 spend more money than I do
3. The station is nearer than I thought. The station isn't as far as i thought

4. The meal doesn't cost as much as I expected. The meal is cheaper than I thought

5. I go out less than before. I don't go out more than before

6. Her hair isn't as long as it was. She has shorter hair as it was

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 good as the Louvre.

3. Eric was (afraid) as afraid in Harlem as in the Subway.

4. Cats are (nice) as nice as dogs.

5. Cartoons are (good) as good as music programmes.

6. The Empire State is (big) as big as the Chrysler Building.

7. Barcelona is (small) as small as Madrid, but (big) as big as 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 cheapest (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 friendlier (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)!