



Nombre de alumno: Angelo Alekzandre Sanchez Perez.

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) more exciting.
7. I'm surprised how easy it is to use the computer. I thought it would be (difficult) harder.
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) farther 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.
3. You know a bit about cars but I know more. You don't as know as.
4. I'm very nervous but you are more. I'm not as nervous as.
5. I feel tired and you too. I'm as tired as.

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 not as spend money as me.
3. The station is nearer than I thought. The station isn't as near as i thought.
4. The meal doesn't cost as much as I expected. The meal as cheap as i thought would be.
5. I go out less than before. I don't as go out as than before.
6. Her hair isn't as long as it was. She has not as long 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 better as the Louvre.
3. Eric was (afraid) not as afraid in Harlem as in the Subway.
4. Cats are (nice) as nicer as dogs.
5. Cartoons are (good) as better as music programmes.
6. The Empire State is (big) as bigger as the Chrysler Building.
7. Barcelona is (small) as small as Madrid, but (big) not as big as Valencia.
8. Scotland is as colder as (cold) than the South of England.
9. I like cats - they're as more interesting as (interesting) than dogs.
10. Charity shops are as cheaper as (cheap) than other shops.
11. Buy that MP3 player. It's as better as (good) than the other one.
12. I spend a lot of time with Petra - she's as more friendly as (friendly) than the other students.
13. In winter, Venice is as more quiet as (quiet) than in summer.
14. The maths exam was bad, but physics was even as worse as (bad)!

GRAMMAR - The superlatives

Superlatives are used to express the highest degree of quality. We use a superlative adjective to describe

SUPERLATIVE OF SUPERIORITY	
SHORT ADJECTIVES: THE + adjective + EST Example: Tom is the tallest boy of the school.	LONG ADJECTIVES: THE MOST + adjective Example: This is the most pleasant place on Earth.

SUPERLATIVE OF INFERIORITY
SHORT ADJECTIVES AND LONG ADJECTIVES: THE LEAST + adjective Example: This is the least interesting movie of the year.

- After superlatives we use "in" with places (towns, buildings, etc.)

Example: what is the longest river in the world?

- We also use "in" for organizations and groups of people (a class/ team/ company)

Example: Who is the best student in the class?

- We use "of" for a period of time.

Example: What is the hottest month of the year?

Irregular forms

Good the best

Example: She's the best singer in the world.

Bad the worst

Example: He's the worst football player.

Far farthest

Example: Seattle is the farthest city from here.

El grado superlativo

El grado superlativo denota la calidad en el grado más alto y como en español, se usa "the" delante del adjetivo en la forma superlativa (véase más adelante).

Ejemplos:

Juan is the fastest .(Juan es el más rápido.)

Angela's room is the cleanest.(La habitación de Angela es la más limpia.)

I am the tallest.(Soy el más alto.)

New York is the biggest city in the United States.(Nueva York es la ciudad más grande de los Estados Unidos.)

Nota: Si el adjetivo es posesivo, no se usa "the". Además no se usa "the" si comparamos algo con si mismo.

Ejemplos:

His smartest student is Lisa.(Su estudiante más lista es Lisa.)

New York is coldest in January.(Nueva York es más frío en enero.)

Form (Forma)

Hay unas reglas para formar el comparativo y superlativo.

1. Para adjetivos de una sílaba:

Comparativo	Superlativo
añade: "-er" ▶ faster	añade: "-est" ▶ fastest

2. Para adjetivos de una sílaba que terminan en "e":

Comparativo	Superlativo
añade: "-r" ▶ nicer	añade: "-st" ▶ nicest

3. Para adjetivos de una sílaba que terminan en consonante + vocal + consonante:

Comparativo	Superlativo
añade: consonante + "-er" ▶ hotter	añade: consonante + "-est" ▶ hottest

4. Para adjetivos de dos sílabas que terminan en "y":

Comparativo	Superlativo
sustituye "y" por: "-ier" ▶ funnier	sustituye "y" por: "-iest" ▶ funniest

5. Para adjetivos de dos o más sílabas:

Comparativo	Superlativo
añade: "more"/"less" ▶ more beautiful ▶ less beautiful	añade: "the most"/"the least" ▶ the most beautiful ▶ the least beautiful

6. Adjetivos irregulares:

Adjetivo	Comparativo	Superlativo
▶ good	▶ better	▶ best
▶ bad	▶ worse	▶ worst
▶ far	▶ further	▶ furthest

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences. Use a **superlative or comparative**. Completa las oraciones usando superlativos o comparativos.

1. We stayed at **the cheapest** hotel in the town (cheap).
2. Our hotel was **cheaper** than all the others in the town (cheap).
3. The United States is very large but Canada is **larger** (large).
4. What's **longest** river in the world? (long).
5. He was a bit depressed yesterday but he looks **happier** today (happy).
6. Today it's an awful day. It is **worst** day of my life (bad).
7. What is **more popular** sport in your country? (popular).
8. Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world (high).
9. This is **the most enjoyable** holidays we have ever had (enjoyable).
10. I prefer this chair to the other one. It's **more comfortable** (comfortable).

Exercise 2. Complete the chart. Completa la table con el **comparativo o superlativo** faltante.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
cold	colder	the coldest
high	higher	the highest
hot	hotter	the hottest
dangerous	the most dangerous	the more dangerous
good	better	The best
bad	worse	the worst

Exercise 3. Write the adjectives in brackets in the **superlative form**.

- Samantha is the (pretty) **prettier** girl that Paul has ever met.
- I think that King Kong was the (bad) **worst** film ever!
- Mount Everest is the (high) **highest** mountain in the world.
- Our English teacher is the (good) **better** teacher ever!
- My room is the (clean) **cleanest** room in my house.
- Ron is the (clever) **smartest** person I've ever met.
- The Millennium Star is one of the (expensive) **more expensive** diamonds in the world.
- David is **the nicest** (nice) of the three brothers.
- Why do you always buy **the most expensive** (expensive) dress in the shop?
- What's **the quicker** (quick) way to get to the town centre?
- I think Venice is **the most beautiful** (beautiful) city in the world.
- Sarah is **the most friendliest** (friendly) girl in my office.
- Chemistry is my **worst** (bad) subject.
- I think Imagine is **the gooddest** (good) song John Lennon wrote.

GRAMMAR - Too and enough

- "Too" and "enough" modify adjectives, adverbs and nouns.

"Too" means more than what is needed. "Enough" means sufficient.

Examples (adjectives): He is too old to play football with the kids.

Dave is intelligent enough to do the right thing.

Examples (adverbs): You're not working fast enough.

I don't have enough time.

Examples (nouns): He has too many friends.

He has too much patience.

- "Enough" comes after adjectives and adverbs:

Example (adjective): He isn't old enough to watch this program.

Example (adverb): We're not walking quickly enough.

- "Enough" may also precede nouns:

Example: We have enough money.

- "Too" comes before adjectives and adverbs:

Example (adjective): It's too hot to wear that coat.

Example (adverb): I was driving too fast.

- "Too" may also come before nouns when it is used with the expressions "too much" and "too many".

"Too much" is used before uncountable nouns.

Example: There is too much salt in this food.

- "Too many" is used before countable nouns.

Example: There are too many students in this classroom.

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences with “too” or “enough”.

1. I'm leaving the coffee to cool for a minute because it is too hot to drink.
2. He isn't strong enough to lift that heavy box.
3. There aren't enough policemen in our town.
4. Do you have enough information to help me with this problem?
5. It is too difficult to do for a little child.
6. I do not have enough time to prepare dinner.
7. I 'm not buying the car because it is too expensive.
8. He isn't working hard enough to pass the exam.
9. My mum can't sleep because she drinks too much coffee.
10. She isn't old enough to start driving.

GRAMMAR - Adverbs

- An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

For example:

She swims quickly.

(Here, the adverb “quickly” modifies the verb swims.)

She swims extremely quickly.

(Here, the adverb “extremely” modifies the adverb quickly.)

She is an extremely quick swimmer.

(Here, the adverb “extremely” modifies the adjective “quick”.)

- Many adverbs are formed from adjectives. The basic rule is that -ly is added to the end of the adjective:

For example: slow- slowly.

- If the adjective already ends in -y, the -y usually changes to -i.

Example: unnecessary- unnecessarily.

- If the adjective ends with a consonant followed by -le, replace the final -e with -y on its own:

Example: terrible- terribly

Exercise 5. Complete the sentences with an adverb or an adjective. Use the words in the box.

quickly safe brilliant loudly late careless hard happy easy slowly

1. The bus drove **quickly** over the bridge.
2. You mustn't talk **loudly** in a theatre.
3. A **careless** person drove into that tree yesterday.
4. Many people think Pierce Brosnan is a **brilliant** actor.
5. If you're **happy**, I'm happy.
6. Gretchen works **hard** on her homework every night.
7. The train leaves at 6.00. Don't be **late**!
8. I can smell gas. Is it **safe** in here?
9. I couldn't do the first question, but the second question was **easy**.
10. The girl walked **slowly** through the park.

Exercise 6. Write a sentence with each one of the adverbs given.

1. loudly **You talk too loudly**

2. politely **Your brother is so politely**

3. early **She was always early**

4. well **He is doing very well**