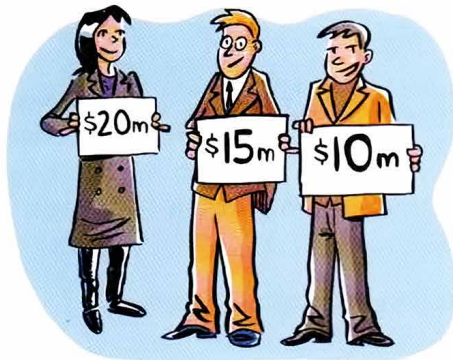


Comparison 3 (as ... as / than)

A

Study this example situation:



SARAH JOE DAVID

Sarah, Joe and David are all very rich. Sarah has \$20 million, Joe has \$15 million and David has \$10 million. So:

Joe is rich.

He is **richer than** David.

But he **isn't as rich as** Sarah.
(= Sarah is **richer than** he is)

Some more examples of **not as ... (as)**:

- Jack **isn't as old as** he looks. (= he looks **older than** he is)
- The town centre **wasn't as crowded as** usual. (= it is usually **more crowded**)
- Lisa **didn't do as well as** she had hoped. (= she had hoped to do **better**)
- The weather is better today. It's **not as cold**. (= yesterday was **colder than** today)
- I **don't know as many people as** you do. (= you know **more people than** me)
- 'How much did it cost? Fifty pounds?' 'No, **not as much as** that.' (= **less than** fifty pounds)

You can also say **not so ... (as)**:

- It's not warm, but it **isn't so cold as** yesterday. (= it isn't **as cold as** ...)

Less ... than is similar to **not as ... as**:

- I spent **less money than** you. (= I **didn't** spend **as much money as** you)
- The city centre was **less crowded than** usual. (= it **wasn't as** crowded **as** usual)
- I play tennis **less than** I used to. (= I **don't** play **as much as** I used to)

B

We also use **as ... as** (*but not so ... as*) in positive sentences and in questions:

- I'm sorry I'm late. I got here **as fast as** I could.
- There's plenty of food. You can have **as much as** you want.
- Let's walk. It's **just as quick as** taking the bus.
- Can you send me the information **as soon as possible**, please?

Also **twice as ... as**, **three times as ... as** etc.:

- Petrol is **twice as expensive as** it was a few years ago.
- Their house is about **three times as big as** ours.

C

We say **the same as** (*not the same like*):

- Laura's salary is **the same as** mine. *or* Laura gets **the same salary as** me.
- David is **the same age as** James.
- Sarah hasn't changed. She still looks **the same as** she did ten years ago.

D

Than me / than I am etc.

You can say:

- You're taller **than me**. *or* You're taller **than I am**.
(*not usually* You're taller than I)
- He's not as clever **as her**. *or* He's not as clever **as she is**.
- They have more money **than us**. *or* They have more money **than we have**.
- I can't run as fast **as him**. *or* I can't run as fast **as he can**.

Exercises

107.1 Complete the sentences using **as ... as**.

- I'm tall, but you are taller. I'm not *as tall as you*.
- My salary is high, but yours is higher. My salary isn't
- You know a bit about cars, but I know more.
You don't
- We are busy today, but we were busier yesterday.
We aren't
- I still feel bad, but I felt a lot worse earlier.
I don't
- Our neighbours have lived here for quite a long time, but we've lived here longer.
Our neighbours haven't
- I was a little nervous before the interview, but usually I'm a lot more nervous.
I wasn't

107.2 Write a new sentence with the same meaning.

- Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't *as old as he looks*.
- I didn't spend as much money as you. You *spent more money than me*.
- The station was nearer than I thought. The station wasn't
- The meal didn't cost as much as I expected. The meal cost
- I go out less than I used to. I don't
- Karen's hair isn't as long as it used to be. Karen used to
- I know them better than you do. You don't
- There are fewer people at this meeting than at the last one.
There aren't

107.3 Complete the sentences using **as ... as + the following**:

bad comfortable ~~fast~~ hard long often quietly soon well

- I'm sorry I'm late. I got here *as fast as* I could.
- It was a difficult question. I answered it I could.
- 'How long can I stay with you?' 'You can stay you like.'
- I need the information quickly, so let me know possible.
- I like to keep fit, so I go swimming I can.
- I didn't want to wake anybody, so I came in I could.

In the following sentences use **just as ... as**.

- I'm going to sleep on the floor. It's the bed.
- You always say how tiring your job is, but I work you.
- At first I thought he was nice, but really he's everybody else.

107.4 Write sentences using **the same as**.

- David and James are both 22 years old. David *is the same age as* James.
- You and I both have dark brown hair. Your hair mine.
- I arrived at 10.25 and so did you. I arrived you.
- My birthday is 5 April. It's Tom's birthday too. My birthday Tom's.

107.5 Complete the sentences with **than ... or as ...**.

- I can't reach as high as you. You are taller *than me*.
- He doesn't know much. I know more
- I don't work particularly hard. Most people work as hard
- We were very surprised. Nobody was more surprised
- She's not a very good player. I'm a better player
- They've been very lucky. I wish we were as lucky

Superlatives (the longest / the most enjoyable etc.)

A

Study these examples:

What is **the longest** river in the world?

What was **the most enjoyable** holiday you've ever had?

Longest and **most enjoyable** are *superlative* forms.

The superlative form is **-est** or **most** In general, we use **-est** for short words and **most** ... for longer words. The rules are the same as those for the comparative – see Unit 105.

long → longest **hot** → hottest **easy** → easiest **hard** → hardest
but **most** famous **most** boring **most** difficult **most** expensive

A few adjectives are irregular:

good → **best** bad → **worst** far → **furthest/farthest**

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

B

We normally use **the** before a superlative (**the** longest / **the** most famous etc.):

- Yesterday was **the hottest** day of the year.
- The movie was really boring. It's **the most boring** movie I've ever seen.
- She is a really nice person – one of **the nicest** people I know.
- Why does he always come to see me at **the worst** possible time?

Compare superlative and comparative:

- This hotel is **the cheapest** in town. (*superlative*)
It's **cheaper** than all the others in town. (*comparative*)
- He's **the most patient** person I've ever met.
He's much **more patient** than I am.

C

Oldest and eldest

The superlative of **old** is **oldest**:

- That church is **the oldest** building in the town. (*not* the eldest)

We use **eldest** (*or* **oldest**) when we are talking about people in a family:

- My eldest son** is 13 years old. (*or* My **oldest** son)
- Are you **the eldest** in your family? (*or* the **oldest**)

D

After superlatives we normally use **in** with places:

- What's the longest river **in the world**? (*not* of the world)
- We had a nice room. It was one of the best **in the hotel**. (*not* of the hotel)

We also use **in** for organisations and groups of people (a class / a company etc.):

- Who is the youngest student **in the class**? (*not* of the class)

For a period of time, we normally use **of**:

- Yesterday was the hottest day **of the year**.
- What was the happiest day **of your life**?

E

We often use the *present perfect* (I **have done**) after a superlative (see also Unit 8A):

- What's **the most important** decision **you've ever had** to make?
- That was **the best** holiday **I've had** for a long time.

Exercises

108.1 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) + a preposition (of or in).

- 1 It's a very good room. It's the best room in the hotel.
- 2 It's a very cheap restaurant. It's the town.
- 3 It was a very happy day. It was my life.
- 4 She's a very intelligent student. She's the class.
- 5 It's a very valuable painting. It's the gallery.
- 6 Spring is a very busy time for me. It's the year.

In the following sentences use **one of** + a superlative + a preposition.

- 7 It's a very good room. It's one of the best rooms in the hotel.
- 8 He's a very rich man. He's one the country.
- 9 It's a very big castle. It's Europe.
- 10 She's a very good player. She's the team.
- 11 It was a very bad experience. It was my life.
- 12 It's a very famous university. It's the world.

108.2 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) or a comparative (-er or more ...).

- 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 (large)
- 4 What's country in the world? (small)
- 5 I wasn't feeling well yesterday, but I feel a bit today. (good)
- 6 It was an awful day. It was day of my life. (bad)
- 7 What is sport in your country? (popular)
- 8 Everest is mountain in the world. It is than any other mountain. (high)
- 9 This building is over 250 metres high, but it's not in the city. (tall)
- 10 I prefer this chair to the other one. It's (comfortable)
- 11 What's way to get to the station? (quick)
- 12 Which is - the bus or the train? (quick)
- 13 What's thing you've ever bought? (expensive)
- 14 Sue and Kevin have got three daughters. is 14 years old. (old)

108.3 What do you say in these situations? Use a superlative + ever. Use the words in brackets (in the correct form).

- 1 You've just been to the cinema. The movie was extremely boring. You tell your friend:
(boring / movie / see) That's the most boring movie I've ever seen
- 2 Your friend has just told you a joke, which you think is very funny. You say:
(funny / joke / hear) That's
- 3 You're drinking coffee with a friend. It's really good coffee. You say:
(good / coffee / taste) This
- 4 You are talking to a friend about Sarah. Sarah is very generous. You tell your friend about her:
(generous / person / meet) She
- 5 You have just run ten kilometres. You've never run further than this. You say to your friend:
(far / run) That
- 6 You decided to give up your job. Now you think this was a bad mistake. You say to your friend:
(bad / mistake / make) It
- 7 Your friend meets a lot of people, some of them famous. You ask your friend:
(famous / person / meet?) Who ?