

Grammar

Making comparisons

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1 Students often make mistakes with comparisons. Choose the correct phrase in *italics* in these extracts from Listening Part 2.

- 1 At first it was difficult for me as my brother and his friends were bigger and *more strong* / *stronger*.
- 2 That probably helped me to develop into a *much better* / *more better* player.
- 3 When I played for my school team, I soon realised I was *more influential* / *most influential* in almost every game I played in than many of my teammates.
- 4 In fact my performance was *better* / *as good as* I could have hoped for.
- 5 I find it a bit irritating and confusing to be honest, but it makes me *much motivated* / *more motivated* to do well.
- 6 People say that the women's game is *more limited* / *the most limited* when compared to the men's game.
- 7 I've been *luckier* / *more lucky* than many female players.
- 8 It really is the *most amazing* / *amazingest* thing that's happened to me.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjective in brackets.

- 1 There are lots of ways to keep fit, but I think (healthy) of all is zumba.
- 2 Playing chess is (cheap) than playing video games.
- 3 Team games are (sociable) than cycling because you meet and speak to a lot of people.
- 4 Chess is (hard) than most games I know.
- 5 For me, parachute jumping is the (thrilling) of all sports.
- 6 Speaking for myself, I find team sports the (not interesting).
- 7 Mountain biking is (good) for getting exercise than most sports.

3 Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1 Learning to ride a bicycle is not as ...
- 2 In team games, the most ...
- 3 I'm much better at ...
- 4 My friends are far ...
- 5 Golf is not nearly ...

- 5 The rain has been pouring down all day, so I chose to stay indoors.
- 6 They haven't mastered Chinese, but they can communicate at a basic level. That's an incredible achievement!
- 7 They have browsed for jobs in sport management for over four hours and still haven't found anything.
- 8 I have gone to the weight lifting session every weekend for years.

3 Make sentences with either the present perfect simple or continuous.

- 1 Scientists / discover / vaccines / to cure / many fatal illnesses.
- 2 He / not put / his recent qualifications on his CV / yet.
- 3 Wake up! You / sleep for / over two hours now.
- 4 We all feel thirsty, / because / as usual / not / drink enough / during training.
- 5 She / know him / since / he was a small child.
- 6 It snow / heavily / all morning / and as a result / the roads / are slippery now.

2

MAKING COMPARISONS

The form of comparatives and superlatives depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective or adverb.

One-syllable adjectives

adjective	comparative	superlative
high	higher	highest
small	smaller	smallest

Adjectives ending in a single consonant

adjective	comparative	superlative
fat	fatter	fattest
sad	sadder	saddest

Adjectives with two syllables

adjective	comparative	superlative
clever	cleverer / more clever	cleverest / most clever
narrow	narrower / more narrow	narrowest / most narrow

Adjectives with three or more syllables

adjective	comparative	superlative
experienced	more experienced	most experienced
inconvenient	more inconvenient	most inconvenient

Note:

Adjectives with two syllables, ending in *-y*, replace the *y* with *i*:

<i>easy</i>	<i>easier</i>	<i>easiest</i>
<i>happy</i>	<i>happier</i>	<i>happiest</i>

These very common adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

adjective	comparative	superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	further / farther	furthest / farthest

Use:

- Comparative adjectives compare differences between two nouns. Sentences have the following structure:
noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + *than* + noun (object)
My SUV is more reliable than your jeep.
- Superlative adjectives compare one noun to a group of nouns.
noun (subject) + verb + *the* + superlative adjective + noun (object)
His flat is the most luxurious home on the estate.
- To say two things are the same, use:
as + adjective + as
She finds doing physics as challenging as solving maths equations.
(= She finds doing physics and solving equations in maths equally challenging.)
- To say that one thing is less than another, use:
not so/as + adjective + as
The party's majority in Parliament is not so/as substantial as before.
- To say that one thing is more or less than another, use:
less/least + adjective
This coat is less expensive than the other one.
This is the least expensive coat in the shop.
- These adverbs form irregular comparisons:
well - better - best badly - worse - worst
- To say that we do one thing the same as another, use:
as + adverb + as
She dresses as elegantly as a fashion model.
- To say that we do one thing differently from another, use:
not so/as + adverb + as
He doesn't adapt to new situations as rapidly as his peers.

- We can use words and phrases with comparative forms to express large and small differences. These are some ways of expressing a large difference:

***much / far / a lot / considerably* + adjective/adverb + *-er / more* + adjective/adverb**

Acts of kindness in that century were much rarer than nowadays.

not nearly as* + adjective/adverb + *as

The study of genetics is not nearly as well developed as we would wish.

***by far* + superlative**

Surprisingly, the common pizza is by far the most authentic dish in Italy.

***one of the most* + superlative + infinitive**

Amazingly, one of the filthiest parts of the human body is the mouth, which has 600 different types of bacteria living in it.

- These are some ways of expressing a small difference:

***slightly / a bit / a little* + adjective/adverb + *-er / more* + adjective/adverb**

Because of the new gambling law people spend slightly less time in casinos than they did in the past.

not quite as* + adjective/adverb + *as

The launch of the new product was not quite as successful as anticipated.

PRACTICE

- ❶ Complete the sentences with the correct comparative or superlative form of the word in brackets.

- Today is the (bad) day I've had this year.
- You call in sick (often) than anyone else in the class.
- This questionnaire about energy use is the (complicated) I've ever completed.
- The conference on tropical diseases was the (memorable) I've ever attended.
- The ferry from Staten Island to Manhattan is the (cheap) in the world. It's free!
- This shape is much (irregular) than the other one.

- ❷ Tick the correct sentences. Correct the sentences with mistakes.

- He's the more hard-working student in the class.
- I think that this natural medicine is most effective than those tablets.
- Generally the inhabitants of that part of town are not as affluent as we are.
- This curry is hotter and more exotic than the one we had yesterday.
- The climate in certain parts of Spain is considerably harsh than many people realise.

- At the weekend he wears casual clothes than during the week.
- Her use of English grammar is the more accurate in the class.
- By far efficient way of mastering a foreign language is to live in the country where the target language is spoken.

- ❸ Put the words in order to make sentences with the comparative or superlative.

- His ambition / than / has always / his brother's. / greater / been /
- was as accurate / the report / Her analysis / the financial situation / as / in the magazine. / of /
- The lecturer is / since she started / less / work on her / available to her students / thesis.
- His skills / are not / as fast / as people predicted. / developing /
- My interest in / considerably / than / the project is / greater now / it was / at the beginning.
- ideally want. / high / My motivation is / as / not quite / as I would /
- than / There are slightly / living in / fewer people / ten years ago. / the town /
- more / than by train. / It's / to travel by car / considerably / exhausting /

ADJECTIVES WITH -ED AND -ING

People often confuse adjectives that end in *-ed*, like **bored** or **excited**, with adjectives that end in *-ing*, for example **boring** or **exciting**.

The difference is that:

- adjectives that end in *-ed* describe emotions – they tell us how people feel about something.
Did you see that video about spiders? Yes, I was terrified by it.
- adjectives that end in *-ing* describe the thing that produces the feeling.
I watched a terrifying video about spiders on YouTube.

Spelling changes when adding *-ed* and *-ing*

-ed

If the base word ends in an 'e', just add 'd':

surprise → surprised amuse → amused

-ing

If the base word ends in an 'e', remove the 'e' and add 'ing':

surprise → surprising amuse → amusing

PRACTICE

- ❶ Choose the correct adjective.

- I was *fascinated* / *fascinating* by the presentation.
- He was *irritated* / *irritating* to meet Milly in town after they had had an argument.

Reading and Use of English Part 1

- 1 You are going to read an extract from a blog by a teenager about ice skating. Before you read, work in pairs. What do you think people most enjoy about ice skating?
- 2 Read the extract quickly to find out how the writer became interested in ice skating.

Ice skating

my passion



I first (0) *A* ice skating when I was eight years old. I remember seeing a poster at my local leisure centre (1) ice-skating lessons and begged my dad to (2) me have a go. He agreed (3) I promised not to break any bones, and the following week, I turned up at the ice rink for my first lesson. I remember feeling a bit unsteady at first, but I soon got used to the ice underneath my feet and was thrilled by the (4) of sliding across the ice. Later, my instructor taught me how to do different turns and jumps. I was (5) of falling at first, but I picked it up quite quickly and then it felt so exciting! I soon became much more confident about (6) risks. Now I train at the ice rink twice a week and have taken part in several national contests. Next year, I am hoping to (7) an international event in Switzerland. I have also kept the promise I (8) to my dad – I have never fallen and injured myself while ice skating!

- In Reading and Use of English Part 1, you read a text of 150–160 words.
- You fill in the gaps with the best option, A, B, C or D.



- 3 Read the extract again and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0 A took up | B played | C thought | D came |
| 1 A taking | B advertising | C giving | D teaching |
| 2 A allow | B let | C permit | D enable |
| 3 A as long as | B as soon as | C as far as | D as much as |
| 4 A emotion | B attention | C feeling | D touch |
| 5 A worried | B alarmed | C anxious | D scared |
| 6 A doing | B taking | C making | D having |
| 7 A take | B make | C enter | D participate |
| 8 A made | B did | C said | D told |