

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

1.- COMPARATIVE

* EQUALITY:

(NOT) **AS + ADJECTIVE + AS** = tan como

My sister is **as intelligent as** him.

He is **not as tall as** Gasol.

The weather in Mexico is **as hot as** in Spain.

The weather in England is **not as hot as** in Spain.

* INFERIORITY:

LESS + ADJECTIVE + THAN = menos ...que

He is **less tall than** Gasol.

The weather in England is **less hot than** in Spain.

This exam is **less difficult than** the last one.

* SUPERIORITY:

1) Short adjectives: **ADJECTIVE + er + THAN** = más ... que

2) Long adjectives: **MORE + ADJECTIVE + THAN** = más ... que

He is **taller than** Gasol.

The weather in Spain is **hotter than** in England.

This exam is **more difficult than** the last one.

My sister is **more intelligent than** him.

2.- SUPERLATIVE

1) Short adjectives: **THE + ADJECTIVE + est + (NOUN) + (IN /OF)** = el /la más ...

2) Long adjectives: **THE MOST + ADJECTIVE + (NOUN)+ (IN /OF)** = el / la más ...

-The article "**THE**" normally appears before the superlative form.

-The superlative form can be followed by a complement introduced by:

IN → When we refer to a PLACE

OF → in the rest of cases.

Jack is **the tallest** in the class.

Laura is **the most energetic** girl of the group.

The Nile is **the longest** river in the world.

This is **the best** film I've ever seen.

This is **the most boring** film I've ever seen.

This is **the most difficult** exam I've done.

3.- RULES TO USE "-ER / -EST or MORE / MOST"

3.1.- ADJECTIVE + **-ER /-EST**

With adjectives of one syllable and adjectives of two syllables ending in -y /-er/ -ow.
(pretty, friendly – clever – narrow)

SPELLING	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
	Long	longer	the longest
	Small	smaller	the smallest
	Fast	faster	the fastest
	High	higher	the highest
DOUBLE CONSONANT	Big	bigger	the biggest
	Thin	thinner	the thinnest
	Slim	slimmer	the slimmest
	Fat	fatter	the fattest
Y → ier /iest	Easy	easier	the easiest
	Busy	busier	the busiest
	Pretty	prettier	the prettiest
	Friendly	friendlier	the friendliest
	Lucky	luckier	the luckiest
	healthy	healthier	the healthiest
E → r /st	Nice	nicer	the nicest
	Large	larger	the largest
	wide	wider	the widest

3.2.- **MORE / MOST** + ADJECTIVE

With adjectives of two or more syllables

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Interesting	more interesting	the most interesting
Boring	more boring	the most boring
Intelligent	more intelligent	the most intelligent
Beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
Famous	more famous	the most famous
Dangerous	more dangerous	the most dangerous

4.- IRREGULAR FORMS

ADJECTIVE / *WORD	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Good	better	The best
Bad	worse	The worst
Far	farther /further	The farthest /furthest
*well (adv)	better	The best
*badly (adv)	worse	The worst
*much/many/a lot of	more	The most
*little	less	The least
*few	fewer	The fewest

I've got **less** money than she has.

There are **fewer** problems than there were before.

* **Note:**

It's getting **hotter and hotter**.

It's getting **more and more dangerous**.

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EXERCISES

1. WRITE THE CORRECT COMPARATIVE FOR THESE SENTENCES

- 1 The Mississippi's *longer than* the Thames. (long)
- 2 This hotel's *more comfortable than* the other one. (comfortable)
- 3 I think this shop is _____ that one. (good)
- 4 The restaurant is _____ the café. (expensive)
- 5 Simon's _____ Mark. (old)
- 6 I think Scotland is _____ England. (beautiful)
- 7 My brother's _____ I am. (young)
- 8 I like this school because it's _____ the other one. (big)
- 9 Accommodation here is _____ in my country. (expensive)
- 10 The weather here is _____ at home. (cold)
- 11 I think you're _____ your father now. (tall)
- 12 His homework was _____ mine, (bad)
- 13 This film is _____ the one you wanted to see. (interesting)
- 14 The journey is _____ I thought. (long)
- 15 This lesson is _____ the last one. (difficult)

2. WRITE THE CORRECT COMPARATIVE FOR THESE SENTENCES

- 1 He is *more helpful than* he used to be. (helpful)
- 2 It was slowly getting *hotter and hotter* (hot)
- 3 I had _____ time than T needed to finish the job. (little)
- 4 Peter gets _____ and _____ all the time (selfish)
- 5 You seem _____ you were yesterday (happy)
- 6 My chair was getting _____ and _____ (uncomfortable)
- 7 We need _____ actors for this film (young)
- 8 I think that the new salesman is _____ the last one. (honest)
- 9 This road is _____ and _____ the other one. (long/dangerous)
- 10 Is the new car _____ the old one? (expensive)
- 11 This system is _____ the last one we had. (easy)
- 12 People here are _____ they are at home (polite)
- 13 The man was getting _____ and _____ (angry)
- 14 The city is _____ it used to be. (crowded)
- 15 She was feeling _____ she had been earlier. (miserable)
- 16 Computers are _____ nowadays (complicated)
- 17 I think trains are _____ and _____ cars (fast/comfortable)
- 18 We will have to think of a _____ method (good)
- 19 I'm beginning to feel _____ about the results. (hopeful)
- 20 She seems to be getting _____ and _____ (thin)
- 21 My new dictionary is *a lot* _____ the last one. (useful)
- 22 These trousers are too wide. Do you have any that are _____ ? (narrow)
- 23 _____ young people learn to play musical instruments than in the past (few)
- 24 The film got _____ and _____ until I fell asleep! (boring)
- 25 I think that people who live in villages are _____ people in big cities (friendly)
- 26 Her new job is *a lot* _____ the last one. (stressful)

3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING THE **COMPARATIVE** FORM

- 1 It's *hotter* here than in London. (hot)
- 2 She's *more imaginative* than her brother. (imaginative)
- 3 He's _____ than all the other students. (old)
- 4 Do you think Pat is _____ than Brian? (intelligent)
- 5 This school is _____ than ours. (old-fashioned)
- 6 The computer was _____ than I thought. (expensive)
- 7 The rooms are _____ than they used to be. (clean)
- 8 He's _____ than he was a year ago. (healthy)
- 9 Do you think English is _____ than French. (difficult)
- 10 He eats a lot - he's getting _____ and _____ (fat)
- 11 His face was getting _____ and _____ (red)
- 12 He was _____ than T had ever seen him before. (angry)
- 13 Big cars are _____ than small ones. (comfortable)
- 14 My exam was _____ than I had thought. (bad)
- 15 The road becomes _____ after four or five miles. (narrow)
- 16 I'm sure I'll find New York _____ than Houston. (exciting)
- 17 I need to go to the doctor; this cough is getting _____ and _____ (bad)
- 18 He thinks Charlie Chaplin is _____ than Mr Bean. (funny)
- 19 Their ticket was _____ than mine because they flew on Sunday. (cheap)
- 20 My son is *a lot* _____ now that he's a teenager. (lazy)

4. WRITE THE **SUPERLATIVES** OF THE WORDS GIVEN

- 1 This is *the biggest building* in the world, (big building)
- 2 This is _____ here. (comfortable chair)
- 3 He bought _____ in the shop. (expensive flowers)
- 4 I think she's _____ of the group. (good singer)
- 5 He's _____ of the company. (careful driver)
- 6 Who's _____ in the class? (old student)
- 7 It's _____ I've ever seen. (bad film)
- 8 She's _____ of all the students. (intelligent)
- 9 It was _____ I had ever heard. (beautiful music)
- 10 He's _____ of all the assistants. (helpful)
- 11 He's _____ in his class. (young)
- 12 This is _____ in the world. (poor country)
- 13 She's _____ I've ever met. (strange person)
- 14 I didn't answer _____ questions. (difficult)
- 15 Peter's _____ of them all. (old)

5. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH AN ADJECTIVE

Boring comfortable dangerous deep difficult

independent old relaxing valuable

- 1 This summer is not *as .hot.. as* last summer.
- 2 I hope his new book is not *as .boring...as* his last one.
- 3 Flying is not *as* _____ *as* travelling by car.
- 4 Don't worry. The river isn't *as* _____ *as* it looks.
- 5 Silver isn't *as* _____ *as* gold.
- 6 Dogs aren't *as* _____ *as* cats.
- 7 Our new car is very fast, but it's not *as* _____ *as* the old one.
- 8 Do you think French is *as* _____ to learn *as* English?
- 9 Were you really born in 1980? I didn't realise you were *as* _____ *as* me.
- 10 For me, lying on the beach is not *as* _____ *as* walking in the mountains.

"TOO" AND "NOT...ENOUGH"

- > The *infinitive* is often used after *too + adjective*, or *not + adjective + enough*.
It's too cold to swim today. (We can't swim today - it's too cold.)
It isn't warm enough to go to the beach.
(We can't go to the beach - it's not warm enough.)
- > *the + comparative, the + comparative* = Cuanto más, más ...
The more you eat, *the fatter* you get (Cuanto más comes, más gordo te pones)
The more I think, *the less* I know (Cuanto más pienso, menos entiendo)
The later you arrive, *the better* the food is (Cuanto más tarde llegas, mejor la comida)

6. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH "TOO" OR "NOT...ENOUGH"

- 1 I can't walk any further - I'm ..*too tired...* (tired)
- 2 I'm sorry. You're *not old enough* to see this film. (old)
- 3 It's _____ to work here. Let's go to the library. (noisy)
- 4 John was _____ to get into the swimming team. (fast)
- 5 Your handwriting is _____ to read. (small)
- 6 I'm afraid we can't buy that computer. It's _____ (expensive)
- 7 I don't think George should get the new job - he's _____ (efficient)
- 8 Those jeans are _____ to wear to the party. (dirty)
- 9 We couldn't talk to each other in the pub; the music was _____ (loud)
- 10 Can you help me with this bottle? I'm to _____ open it. (strong)

7. COMPARATIVE OR SUPERLATIVE??

- 1 We've got (big) problems to worry about
- 2 Which is (high) mountains in the world?
- 3 Is it much (cold) in New York?
- 4 Those were (happy) days of my childhood
- 5 You're (lucky) person in the world
- 6 You're (lucky) than I am
- 7 And then, (unbelievable) thing happened
- 8 She was much (fat) the last time I saw her
- 9 The film was (boring) than I expected
- 10 These are too large, Do you have any (small) ones?
- 11 Was she (young) girl in the group?
- 12 He is (lazy) now than he ever was
- 13 That is (expensive) picture in the shop
- 14 He was driving (fast) than usual
- 15 I worked (hard) than John
- 16 It probably takes (long) than an hour
- 17 This is the (bad) thing that could ever happen to me
- 18 My (old) sister is a doctor
- 19 It's (bad) than I thought
- 20 It's (cold) today than it was yesterday

8. TRANSLATE INTO SPANISH

- 1 Es casi tan alto como yo (tall / me)
- 2 Regresaré tan pronto como pueda (come back / soon)
- 3 Es tan estúpido como su hermano
- 4 La maleta es tan pesada como el bolso (case / heavy / bag)
- 5 No eres tan listo como crees (clever / think)
- 6 No soy tan tonto como crees (stupid)
- 7 ¿Te sientes mejor ahora? (feel)
- 8 Llevo aquí más tiempo que ellos (be / long)
- 9 He trabajado más que nadie (hard / anybody else)
- 10 Es uno de los mejores escritores del mundo
- 11 Eso no es lo más importante (important thing)
- 12 Fue más fácil de lo que esperaba (easy / expect)
- 13 Él es mayor de lo que imaginas (old / think)
- 14 Yo lo hice mejor que él (do)
- 15 Yo canto mejor que ella
- 16 Me tratan peor que a ella (treat)
- 17 Cuanto más lo intento, peor lo hago (try / do)
- 18 Cuanto más lo pienso, menos me gusta (think / like)
- 19 Cuanto más idiomas aprendas, mejor para tu futuro (languages / learn)
- 20 Cuantas más hablo con él, mejor me cae (talk to / like)