

## 10 We can express the idea that things are equal or not equal in several ways.

We use *as ... as ...* to say two things are equal in some way:

*Marie's accent is **as** difficult to understand **as** Sophie's.*

(= Marie's accent and Sophie's accents are equally difficult to understand.)

We use *nearly as ... as ...* to say two things are almost equal.

*My mum's English is nearly **as** good **as** mine.*

(= My English is better than my mum's, but only a little better.)

We use *not as ... as ...* to say two things are not equal in some way.

*Hungarian is **not as** widely spoken **as** English.*

(= Hungarian is less widely spoken than English.)

**Write a total of six sentences with *as ... as ...*, *nearly as ... as ...*, and *not as ... as ...* relating to your life.**

## Expressing attitude

### 11 You can make your language more interesting by expressing your attitude with precision. One way to do this is with attitude markers. These are often adverbs, but they can also be phrases and they modify a whole sentence or clause. Their position in a sentence is generally very flexible.

*Example: British people **apparently** spend an average of £90 a month on communication services. They have increased their use of such services in recent years but, **interestingly**, they spend less money on them because competition between companies has reduced the charges.*

**Check the meanings of the attitude markers a–g in your dictionary. Then use them to complete sentences 1–7. There is sometimes more than one possible answer.**

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>a</b> admittedly            | <b>d</b> as luck would have it | <b>f</b> ideally     |
| <b>b</b> all things considered | <b>e</b> even more importantly | <b>g</b> undoubtedly |
| <b>c</b> arguably              |                                |                      |

- 1 Due to the emergence of China as a leading economic power, Mandarin will \_\_\_\_\_ become the foreign language of choice in future years. I am sure of it.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_, I'd like to study at a British university but I'm not sure I'll be able to. For financial reasons, I may have to stay here instead.
- 3 My friend wants to improve her speaking and, \_\_\_\_\_, our school has just set up an English conversation club.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_, English is a more useful language to learn than Italian. I still prefer Italian, though.