

## Session 3

We've created a personalised tour of the BBC just for you! Here's your chance to take a look around the old and new headquarters, learn some history, hear some comparatives and superlatives in action and practise what you've learned so far.

## Activity 1

### Take the tour!

### A superlative guide

We have a special treat for you to start Session 3 – our very own BBC Learning English tour of Broadcasting House with John Escolme, the BBC's History Manager! He will show us some of the newest and oldest parts of the building and tell us more about the history behind it. Pay attention to how he uses comparative and superlative forms – you can read the transcript to help you if you like.

#### Show transcript

For many science-fiction fans, **one of the most interesting** things in the video is the Dalek from Doctor Who. John describes it as "**one of the most famous** things in this building".

Look at the adjective forms in the sentences above. Are they comparative or superlative forms?

Well, they are superlatives (*the most interesting*, *the most famous*) but there are two very important words just before them: **one of...**

How does this change the meaning? In an old, well-known place like Broadcasting House, there are many famous and historical items. Who can say which one is *the most* famous? For history-lovers, it may be the microphone used by King George V. For science-fiction fans, it would most likely be the Dalek. For people who love music, it might be one of the mementoes of The Beatles.

However, everyone can agree that these different items are each **one of the most famous**. Let's look at some more examples:

Broadcasting House is **one of the most iconic** buildings in London (*London is full of iconic buildings like Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and 'The Gherkin' and Broadcasting House is one of them*).

The BBC news team is **one of the fastest** in the world (*It would be difficult to say which news team is actually the fastest but with its highly-professional team and state-of-the-art modern technology, the BBC news team is one of them*).

The new 'John Peel Wing' is named after **one of the BBC's most popular** presenters. (*The BBC has had many popular and famous presenters. John Peel was highly popular with music fans so we can say he was one of the most popular*).

Mm-mmm! That is **one of the best** lasagnes I have ever eaten! (*Said in the BBC canteen? I have eaten and enjoyed so many lasagnes in my lifetime but this one is really great!*)

As John says at the end of the video: "I hope it's been **as informative as** you had hoped!"

Let's look at that sentence carefully. In this case, we do not see a comparative (*more informative than...*) or a superlative (*the most informative...*) Instead, we see **as informative as...** What does this mean? Look at the following examples and see if you can work it out:

I am 3 years older than my brother but he is **as tall as** me. We are both 1m80 tall.

Paul McCartney is **as old as** my grandfather! They were both born in 1939.

Despite many changes over the years, the BBC is still **as important as** ever in the UK and around the world.

Answer: We use the structure **as + adjective + as** to describe two things that are **the same** in some way.

Please check out our [grammar reference](#) for more explanations and examples.

### To do

Look at the words below – they are all jumbled up! Can you re-arrange them into sentences?

### Next

How did you get on? Next we will review and extend what we have learned so far in this unit and focus on listening with a quiz about the video you've just seen.



