

making comparisons

modifiers

- Comparisons can be modified to make them less extreme.
*This is **probably the best** computer at the moment.*
*Smiths is **one of the largest** companies in Britain.*
*I've done **just about as much as** I can.*
*This isn't **quite as easy as** I thought.*
*The new one is **not nearly / half / nowhere near** as good as the old one.*
*It is **nowhere near as good as** the old one. (informal)*
- Comparisons can be made stronger.
*This is **easily the best** car in its class.*
*Football is **far and away the most popular** sport in the world.*
*It's **the most popular** sport in the world **by far**.*
*Tennis is **far / a lot / much more** demanding.*
*It's **much / miles / loads more** interesting. (miles and loads are informal)*
*Golf is **every bit as interesting** as football.*
*Golf is **rather more interesting** than I thought.*

comparative constructions

- **as + adjective + a + noun + as**
*We asked for **as large a car as** possible.*
*It's not **as long a journey as** I used to have.*
- **too + adjective + a + noun**
*A nuclear war is **too terrible a thing** to contemplate. (formal)*
- **not as / so + adjective + to-infinitive + as**
*It's not **as / so easy to explain** as I thought.*
- **sufficiently + adverb + to-infinitive**
*Some students are unable to write **sufficiently well to pass** the test. (formal)*
- **more + adjective + than + adjective, or not so much + adjective + as + adjective**
 This construction can be used to make a distinction between two similar adjectives.
*I was **more surprised than** angry.*
*I wasn't **so much angry as** surprised.*

be + comparative + to-infinitive

- **it + be + comparative + to-infinitive**
*It's **cheaper to buy** a return ticket.*
- **noun + be + comparative + to-infinitive**
*French is **easier to learn than** Chinese.*
*Tennis is **more interesting to watch than** golf. (= It's more interesting to watch tennis than golf.)*

comparative + comparative

Two comparatives together are often used in descriptive writing, with verbs of becoming, changing, movement, etc.

- The bike began to go **faster and faster**.*
*The boat was getting **further and further away**.*
*Jane was growing **more and more confused**.*

the + comparative or superlative + of the + number / quantity

- This structure can be used with a comparative to compare two things
*This is by far / easily **the more interesting of the two**.*
- It can be used with a superlative to compare one thing with many things
*I think this one is **the best of the lot / them all / the bunch**. (informal)*

present perfect + superlative

We often use the present perfect with a superlative.

*This is **the worst holiday I've ever had**. (I'm on holiday now)*
*That was by far / much **the best film I've seen** this year.*

the + comparative, the + comparative

- This structure is often used to give advice.
***The more** you put off going to the dentist, **the worse** you will feel.*
***The longer** you leave it, **the more painful** your tooth will become.*
- Adjectives and adverbs can be mixed.
*The **more exercise** I take, the **more slowly** I run!*
- Fixed phrases include:
The sooner, the better. The more, the merrier.

like and as

- **as ... as**
*Stay for **as long as** you want. His hands were **as cold as** ice.*
*You look **as white as** a ghost.*
as ... as is often used in proverbial expressions.
*He was **as good as** gold. She's **as happy as** the day is long.*
- **like**
*A caravan is **like** a house on wheels. (it is similar)*
- **look like, smell like**
*The school **looks like** a prison. (it resembles a prison)*
*You **smell like** a beautiful flower! (the smells are the same)*
- **look like, sound like**
*It **looks like** rain. (= it looks as if it's going to rain)*
*That **sounds like** the postman. (= it sounds as if he has arrived)*
- **feel like**
*The pain **felt like** a burning needle in his arm. (it is similar)*
*I **feel like** going out tonight. (That's what I want to do)*
- **work as / like**
*Sue **works as a bar-maid** at weekends. (She is a bar-maid)*
compare: *They **worked like slaves** to get the project finished. (They are compared to slaves)*
- **look as if + present simple / unreal past simple**
*You **look as if you need / needed** a rest. You must be really tired.*

enough and too

- **not + adjective + enough + to-infinitive**
*I wasn't **quite old enough to get** into the film (= I was nearly old enough.)*
*He didn't **run fast enough to win***
- **too + adjective + to-infinitive**
*The rescue services arrived far / much **too late to save** him*
*It was **too great a temptation (for him) to resist**.*

1 Underline the best word.

- a This camera is easily the / a best of its type.
- b I wasn't so much surprised as / than shocked by the result.
- c That was probably / not nearly the best football match I've ever seen!
- d Politics is too / so important an activity to be left to politicians.
- e It was as / too good an opportunity to miss, so I accepted the job.
- f It's quicker to travel by bus than / like by car in the city centre.
- g As the medicine took effect, Tina became far and away / more and more sleepy.
- h You are every bit / miles as responsible for what happened as I am.
- i Cats are not nearly / a lot harder to understand than dogs.
- j This looks like / as the place. It fits the description, anyway.
- k I think the Harry Potter films are about as / a lot more interesting than the books.
- l This is definitely the better / the best beach we've been to so far.

2 Complete the sentence with one word in each gap.

- a Budapest is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
- b You haven't really worked hard to get a higher mark.
- c The more exercise you take, the you will feel!
- d Quite honestly, I don't think this is as hard an examination it used to be.
- e This is the most beautiful beach in the Mediterranean. Don't you think so?
- f I've done just as much shopping as anyone can do in one day!
- g The film was every as entertaining as I expected it to be.
- h Most of Winterson's books are good, but I think this one is the best of all.
- i The boat drifted and no-one noticed Sue had fallen into the sea.
- j The hotel was a more expensive than I expected, so I looked for a cheaper one.
- k This crossword puzzle isn't quite as easy I thought it was.
- l Helen's paintings were far and the best in the exhibition.

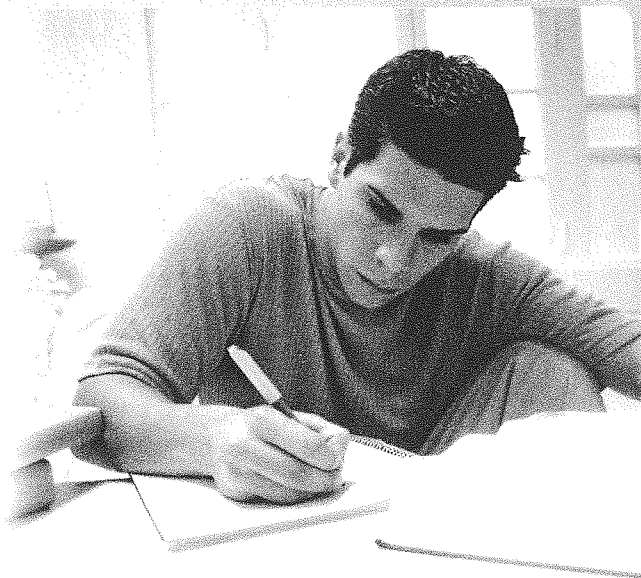
3 Complete the sentence with *like*, *as*, *too* or *enough*.

- a You can use the pool as many times as you like in a week.
- b We called the fire brigade but they didn't get to the house soon to save it.
- c Wear some warm clothes. It looks snow.
- d Harry walked into the city centre, but it was early to get any breakfast.
- e A kilt is a bit a skirt, but for men.
- f At weekends Tony works a cashier in a supermarket.
- g They wouldn't let Dave into the club because he didn't look old
- h You don't look as well you did last week.
- i Open a window! This room smells a farmyard!
- j The man next to me on the train was snoring a pig.
- k Quite honestly, I thought the news was good to be true.
- l The ladder wasn't quite long to reach the upstairs window.

4 Choose the best option, A, B or C, to complete the sentence.

Memory

It's quite common to hear someone complain that their memory is a *c* as it used to be, or that the more things they try to remember, b quickly they seem to forget. However, memory is c complicated than we usually think. For example, remembering facts is not at all d remembering how to perform an action, and it seems that we don't 'forget' how to ride a bicycle or drive a car. For some people, it may be e to remember what they have just read f recall where they left their car keys. Of course, g interesting a topic is, the more we remember about it, and we are almost certainly h to recall something we have read or seen recently, because it remains active in our memory. Where studying is concerned, there are certainly ways of making the memory i . It's j to remember disorganized information, so note-making and summarizing are important, and the learner, not the teacher, has to do this. Regular reviewing of what has been learned is k ways of strengthening memory. Some learners have l visual than a verbal memory, and may remember more by associating ideas with visual images. There are plenty of books on the market which illustrate these techniques, always assuming that you can remember to buy one!



- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| a A less good | B worse | C not as good |
| b A not nearly as | B the more | C it's just as |
| c A by far | B easily | C a lot more |
| d A the same as | B like | C as if |
| e A probably | B much easier | C nowhere near as |
| f A as | B than to | C the more |
| g A just about as much | B more and more | C the more |
| h A faster and faster | B far and away | C more likely |
| i A more efficient | B as good as | C every bit as |
| j A just as easy | B not so easy | C easier and easier |
| k A as important | B more and more important | C one of the best |
| l A just as good | B easily the best | C a better |

GLOSSARY

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- A Make statements about these topics, including a comparative or superlative, and using some of the modifiers on the explanations page.

a film, book etc something you dislike a sport an activity

- B Check these proverbial as ... as expressions. What is the equivalent in your language?

as cool as a cucumber
as hard as nails

as easy as pie
as keen as mustard

as free as a bird
as large as life

Need more practice? Go to the **Review** on page 208.