

17. 비교 Comparison

비교급, 최상급의 형태

◇ 형용사와 부사는 비교의 정도(Degree)를 표현하는 각이한 형태를 가질 수 있다. 이러한 성질을 Gradability라고 한다. 이 때 형용사, 부사의 원래 형태를 '원급'(Positive Form), 둘 사이의 우열을 표현하는 형태를 '비교급'(Comparative Form), 셋 이상의 대상 속에서 최고의 정도를 표현하는 형태를 '최상급'(Superlative Form)이라고 한다.

◇ 비교급, 최상급의 형태

1) **1음절어**는 -er, -est를 붙이고¹⁾, **3음절어**는 more, most를 붙인다.²⁾

(ex.) strange - stranger - strangest

astounding - more astounding - most astounding

2) 1음절어가 [단모음+단자음]으로 끝나면 맨 끝의 자음을 두 번 씬.

(ex.) big - bigger - biggest

rich -

sweet -

1) -e로 끝나면 -r, -st만 붙임. fine—finer—finest. 과거분사형 형용사(bored, pleased)는 more, most를 씬.

2) 접두어가 붙어 3음절이 된 것이라면, 2음절 때의 원리를 따른다. **unhappier** // more **incomplete**

- 3) **2음절어 형용사**의 경우는 대부분 more, most를 사용하지만, **-er, -le, -ow, -y, -ly** 등으로 끝나는 2음절어는 -er, -est를 붙일 수 있다. 하지만 more, most도 혼용하는 경우도 많아서, 절대적 원칙으로 볼 수 없다.

(ex.) peaceful

narrow

gentle

friendly

- 4) **2음절어 부사**의 경우는 일반적으로 more, most를 사용한다.

(ex.) quickly – more quickly – most quickly

◇ 불규칙 변화 형용사

- 1) 원급이 두 개 이상인 경우

- _____/_____ – better – best
- _____/_____ – more – most
- _____/_____/_____ – worse – worst

(ex.) Today's weather is **worse** than yesterday's.

My daughter is behaving **worse** than ever.

You can never speak **worse** of anyone than he or she deserves.

2) 비교급, 최상급이 두 개 이상인 경우

- old - older - oldest
 - elder - eldest (친족관계에서)

☞ elder, eldest는 극도로 격식을 차린(fairly formal) 낡은(old-fashioned) 표현이다. 현대 미국에서는 친족관계라 하더라도, older - oldest를 주로 쓴다. 또한 elder, eldest는 친족관계라 하더라도 **서술적 용법**으로는 절대 쓸 수 없다.

(ex.) My sister is two years _____ than I am.

- far - farther - farthest (거리)
 - further - furthest (정도, 양, 시간)

(ex.) There's a gas station a few miles _____ down the road.

Do you have anything _____ to say?

For _____ information, ask the secretary.

☞ 실제 영어에서 '거리'를 표현할 때도 further, furthest를 매우 많이 쓴다. 하지만 어법적으로 정확한 표현이라고 간주하기는 어렵다.

- late
 - later (=after the time mentioned, coming in the future)
 - latest (=the most recent)
 - latter (=being the second of two, the last in a list, nearest to the end of time)
 - last (= nearest to the present, happening or existing at the end)

(ex.) The weapons will be destroyed at a _____ date.

Have you heard the _____ news?

He served in Korea during the **latter part** of the Korean War.

Applications must be received no _____ than May 22.

She offered me more money or a car and I chose the _____. (차)

He's going to the store but he'll be back here _____.

"I love you" was the _____ thing he said before he died.

◇ '라틴어의 비교급'이 그대로 영어가 된 경우 : superior, inferior, senior, prior

① 비교급, 최상급이 불가능하다.

② than을 못 쓰고 **to**를 쓴다.

③ to는 전치사이므로 무조건 **목적격**이 온다.

(ex.) He is two years older than I.

He is older than I _____ two years.

He is _____ _____ to _____.

He is _____ to _____ two years.

He is my _____ two years.

☞ prefer의 형용사형 preferable도 이와 동일하다.

(ex.) With fish white wine is _____ red (wine).

no 비교급 than과 not 비교급 than - 수학적 해법

◇ not 은 _____ no 는 _____.

(ex.) 다음 문장의 의미 차이에 유의하여 등호 및 부등호를 완성하시오.

- Bill has **no more than** 100 dollars. : Bill의 소유액 100
- Tom has **no less than** 100 dollars. : Tom의 소유액 100
- Dick has **not more than** 100 dollars. : Dick의 소유액 100 ⇒ 100 _____
- Bret has **not less than** 100 dollars. : Bret의 소유액 100 ⇒ 100 _____

☞ no more than과 no less than은 ‘객관적’ 수치는 동일하지만, 그 ‘주관적’ 평가는 정반대 이다. no more than은 more(much)하지 않다, 즉 little하다는 평가를 전달한다. 그에 반해 no less than은 less(little)하지 않다, 즉 much하다는 평가를 전달한다. 이를 표로 표현하 면,

등호(=)	
no more than	no less than
‘적다’	‘많다’

▶ 등호 + “적다” ⇒

▶ 등호 + “많다” ⇒

◇ no more than = as little as 과, no less than = as much as 를 일반화시키면, 다음과 같은 결론이 나온다. 그러면 수치와 관련 없는 모든 형용사에 적용할 수 있게 된다.

☞ [no 비교급 than] = [as _____ as]

(ex.) 우열관계에 주목하여 다음 문장을 해석하라.

Kim is more beautiful than Lee.	Kim	Lee
Kim is no more beautiful than Lee.	Kim	Lee
Kim is less beautiful than Lee.	Kim	Lee
Kim is no less beautiful than Lee.	Kim	Lee

◇ [not 비교급]은 비교급의 ‘수학적 부정’, 즉 [~ 비교급]으로 이해하면 된다.

(ex.) Kim is not more beautiful than Lee.	Kim	Lee
Kim is not less beautiful than Lee.	Kim	Lee

◇ 유사 표현 정리

- no more than = _____ = _____
- no less than = _____
- not more than = _____
- not less than = _____

A no more B than C-D / A no less B than C-D

◇ 앞에서 우리는 no more than, no less than을 수치적 관계에서 형용사 일반의 관계로 발전시킨 바 있다. 여기서 더 나아가, 형용사뿐만이 아닌 **보편적 구문 관계**로 일반화시키고자

한다.

◇ no more than는 as little as로서 “겨우 그것밖에”라는 뜻이다. 즉 **부정적**인 의미이다.
no less than는 as much as로서 “그것씩이나”라는 뜻이다. 즉 **긍정적**인 의미이다.

☞ A **no more** B **than** C-D 는 양쪽 다 **부정**의 의미로서 $[A \neq B] = [C \neq D]$.³⁾

A **no less** B **than** C-D 는 양쪽 다 **긍정**의 의미로서 $[A = B] = [C = D]$.

(ex.) A home without love is **no more** a home **than** a body without a soul is a man.

Internet is **no less** indispensable **than** food is. (B=D)

To treat manual labor with contempt is **no less** absurd **than** wicked. (A=C)

(cf.) A whale is **no more** a fish **than** a horse is.

= A whale is **no less** a _____ **than** a horse is.

☞ 이 구문에서 담고 싶은 요지는 $[A \neq B]$ 혹은 $[A = B]$ 이다. 즉 A-B에 관련된 진술을 하기 위하여, 공지의 사실인 C-D를 끌어들여 설명하는 것이다.

원급을 사용한 구문

◇ 원급 비교의 부정문 : not so(=as) ~ as를 쓴다.

3) A no more B than C-D 구문은 A **not** B **any more than** C-D로 쓰기도 한다.

(ex.) The train does **not** travel **so** fast **as** KTX.

◇ 관용적 직유(Simile) 표현

- as busy as a _____
- as cool as a _____
- as cunning as a _____
- as dead as a _____
- as dry as _____ 무미건조한
- as flat as _____
- as gay as a _____
- as like as _____
- as old as _____ 태고적부터의
- as poor as a _____
- as proud as a _____
- as sweet as _____
- as wise as _____

◇ 배수를 표현하는 방법

원급	:	배수사 + as ~ as B	China is about twenty times as large as Korea.
비교급	:	" + 비교급 than B	China is about twenty times larger than Korea.
명사	:	" + the 명사 of B	The size of China is about twenty times the size of Korea.

- old - age / high - height / long - length / heavy - weight 등

※ 특수한 배수사 표현 (as ~ again as)

- Mary is **as** old **again as** I. = Mary is _____ as old as I.
= Mary is _____ my age.
- This tower is **half as** tall **again as** that building.
= This tower is _____ that building.
- This earthquake had a force **one-third as** great **again as** the 1906 L.A. earthquake.
= 이번 지진은 1906년 L.A. 지진 강도의 _____에 해당한다.

◇ 기타 원급 비교 구문

- as 형용사A as 형용사B : B한 만큼 A하기도 하다.

(ex.) They went home as **totally exhausted** as **disappointed**.

She is as **bright** as **beautiful**. (재색검비)

- as ~ as can be

(ex.) The weather was **as** nice **as could be**.

- not so much A as B : A라기보다는 B다

(ex.) He is **not so much** a scholar **as** a journalist.

= He is a journalist _____ a scholar.

= He is _____ a journalist _____ a scholar.

- not so much as **V** / without so much as **-ing** : ~ 조차 못하다 / ~조차 없이

(ex.) She **didn't so much as** look at me.

He rushed out of the house **without so much as** saying good-bye to me.

비교급을 사용한 구문

◇ 비교급인데, 꼭 **the**를 써야 되는 세 경우

1) **The** 비교급 S+V, **the** 비교급 S+V

(ex.) **As** the apples are heavier, they taste sweeter.

=

The more you have, the more you envy.

The more quickly you finish your daily works, the more comfortable you feel.

The more books you have, the more knowledgeable you are.

2) **the** 비교급 + for N / because S+V : 여기서 the는 '그만큼'의 뜻

(ex.) I like him all the better **because** he has human weakness.

Man is none the happier **for** his wealth.

3) **the** 비교급 of the two : 둘 사이의 비교에서

(ex.) **Of the two** brothers, he is by far the faster.

◇ 절대 비교급 : 비교의 대상이 없거나 아주 막연한 경우의 비교급 (원급과 비슷한 의미)

(ex.) a higher class hotel / higher education

the lower class ⇔ the higher(=upper) class

the lower animals ⇔ the higher animals

the younger generation ⇔ the older generation

the greater part (= _____) of the audience

◇ 비교급 and 비교급 : 점점 더

(ex.) He became more and more eloquent towards the end of his speech.

◇ much(still) more ⇔ much(still) less

(ex.) I like dancing, **much more** music..

I cannot even read Russian, **still less** speak it.

최상급을 사용한 구문

◇ 최상급에서 the를 쓰지 **않아도 되는** 세 경우

1) 동일인, 동일사물의 성질이나 상태

(ex.) She is (the) **happiest** when she was with her husband.

2) 형용사가 서술어(보어)로 쓰이는 경우

(ex.) The bigger you are, the harder you fall. But if you rise again, you stand (the) **tallest** of all.

3) 부사의 최상급의 경우

(ex.) Of all the fruits, I like oranges (the) **best**.

◇ 양보 (= even)의 의미를 포함하는 최상급.

(ex.) **The strongest** man cannot stop the laws of nature.

The fastest rocket would not reach the nearest star in two or three years.

◇ at (the) 최상급 : 반어적 표현

- at (the) best

(ex.) He is **at best** a second-rate writer.

- at most / at least / at the latest / at the earliest

(ex.) You must come back home by ten _____.

◇ 기타 최상급 구문

- the last [N] to V / the last [N] that S+V : 가장 ~할 것 같지 않은(= least likely)

(ex.) He is **the last** person **to** do such a thing.

A bad habit is **the last** thing **that** most of us are afraid of.

- not ~ in the least = not ~ _____ = not ~ for the world

(ex.) I **don't** understand **in the least**, what this author is trying to say.

최상급 ⇔ 비교급 ⇔ 원급

원급의 형태로	비교급의 형태로	최상급의 형태로
① 부정어구 + so ~as ② as ~ as + any 명사 as ~ as + ever 동사	① 부정어구 + 비교급 + than ③ 비교급 + than any other + 단수(복수)명사 " + " all the other + 복수명사 " + " any one(thing) else	④ the 최상급 + of all the 복수명사 the 최상급 + (단수명사)

④ Microsoft is the biggest software company in the world.

①

②

③

= **Nowhere** in the world is a software company **so** big **as** Microsoft.

= **Nowhere** in the world is a software company bigger **than** Microsoft.

= **There** is **no** software company **so** big **as** Microsoft.

= **There** is **no** software company bigger **than** Microsoft.

비교급 강조. 최상급 강조

◇ 비교급의 강도를 높이려고 할 때 : **a lot, much, all the, far**

(ex.) He works **a lot** less carefully than the other jeweler in town.

We like his work so **much** better.

You'll get your watch back **all the** faster.

◇ 비교급의 강도를 낮추려고 할 때 : **somewhat, a little**

(ex.) The weather this week has been **somewhat** better.

He approaches his schoolwork **a little** less industriously than his brother does.

◇ 최상급 강조 ➡ **very, much, by far**

: **the very** 최상급 = much **the** 최상급 (very를 쓸 때는 **한정사**가 반드시 앞에 온다.)

(ex.) She is wearing **her very** finest outfit for the interview.

They're doing **the very** best they can.

= They're doing **much the** best they can.

비교구문에서의 생략

◇ Taller than I vs. me

- He is taller than I am.

에서 be 동사가 반복되고 있으므로, am을 생략할 수 있다.

- 원칙적으로는 He is taller than **I**. (formal, written) 라고 하는 것이 맞다. 하지만 informal 하게는 than을 전치사로 취급하여 He is taller than **me**. 라고 표현하기도 한다. 그러나 어떤 표현을 쓰건 내용적 오해가 발생할 가능성은 전혀 없다.

- 다양한 생략의 예

(ex.) No one can book orders from customers better than Roy _____.

We are now living a more comfortable life than _____ before.

She is as arrogant as when _____ in high school.

He is in better health now than _____ when he was staying with us.

Now he is not so naughty _____.

This car is easy to drive, but that one is much easier _____.

Nothing could be further from the truth _____.

◇ 위의 예문 어떤 경우에도, 생략의 결과로 내용적인 오해가 생기지 않는다. 하지만 다음의 경우는 어떨까?

(ex.) I love her as much as you. (??)

☞ 위 문장은 다음의 두 문장 중 하나이다.

I love her as much as you (love her).

I love her as much as (I love) you.

구어체에서는 이 문제를 강세(stress)로 해결할 수 있지만, 문어체에서는 오해를 피할 수가 없다. 하지만 다음과 같은 경우는 기본적으로 구분이 된다고 볼 수 있다.

(ex.) I like him better than **she**.

I like him better than **her**.

그렇지만 이 경우도 than she의 경우는 문제가 없지만, than her 는 또 오해를 낳을 수 있다. 따라서 명징하게 표현하려면 생략하지 않고 다음과 같이 쓰는 것이 좋은 것이다.

(ex.) I like him better than **she does**.

I like him better than **I like her**.

Exercises

※ 다음 중 어법에 어긋나는 것을 찾아 옳게 고치시오.

1. Many kinds of animals live at lower altitudes than at higher ones, largely because of the differences in climate between elevations.
2. A supernova explosion is far most spectacular and destructive than a nova and much rarer.
3. Glaciers begin to form when more snow falls during the winter as melts and evaporates in summer.
4. In general, cold waters are good habitats for plants and animals than warm ones because cold waters contain more dissolved oxygen.
5. The drier of all the 50 states, Nevada relies on a number of man-made lakes and underground sources to augment its meager water supply.
6. An object with a relatively large mass has a high resistance to a change in its state of motion than does an object with a relatively small mass.

7. The Espresso coffee has a stronger, bitter and richer taste than the American-style coffee.

8. Abolitionists are distinguished from free-soilers, who opposed the farther extension of slavery.

※ 다음 중 어법에 맞는 것을 고르시오.

9. This pen is as good as _____ I've ever used.

- (a) long (b) though
(c) any (d) ever

10. He was _____ soldier as ever shouldered a gun.

- (a) as brave (b) as a brave
 (c) brave as a (d) as brave a

11. It is not so _____ what a man wears as the way he wears it that marks the gentleman.

- (a) often (b) much
(c) many (d) long

12. Do you know that Japan once produced more silk than _____ country?

- (a) different (b) other
(c) another (d) any other

13. This wine is _____ to that in favor.

- (a) better (b) more
(c) inferior (d) worse

14. For a growing child a small town seems _____ a large city.

- (a) more preferable to (b) preferable to
(c) preferable than (d) more preferable than

15. I like the boy _____ better for his naughtiness.

- (a) some (b) any
(c) all the (d) much a

16. No one can tell another person in any definite way how he should spend his free time,
_____ how he ought to breathe.

- (a) much less than (b) no more than
(c) any better than (d) any more than

17. Sunlight is no _____ necessary to good health than fresh air.

- (a) more (b) better
(c) further (d) less

18. The place is at its _____ in spring.

- (a) good (b) best
(c) better (d) most

19. Lost things have a way of appearing when _____ expected.

- (a) best (b) least
(c) worst (d) most

20. In physics, the greater_____ object's mass, the more difficult it is to change its velocity.

- (a) an (b) it is an
(c) which is an (d) an

21. Jet engines cause less vibration_____, which are used in some airplanes to turn propellers.

- (a) piston engines do (b) do piston engines
 (c) than piston engines are (d) than do piston engines

22. Lead, which has an atomic number of 82, absorbs more X rays than_____

- Ⓐ like most other substances
- Ⓑ as most other substances
- Ⓒ most other substances are
- Ⓓ do most other substances