

## making comparisons (modifiers)

### Comparisons can be modified to make them less extreme.

- ❖ This is **probably the best computer** at the moment.
- ❖ Ford is **one of the largest companies** in the USA.
- ❖ 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)



### 2 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.



### 3 comparative constructions


<b>A</b>	as + adjective + a + noun + as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ We asked for <b>as large a car as</b> possible.</li> <li>❖ It's not <b>as long a journey as</b> I used to have.</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	too + adjective + a + noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A nuclear war is <b>too terrible a thing</b> to contemplate. (formal)</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	not as / so + adjective + to - infinitive + as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It's <b>not as / so easy to explain as</b> I thought.</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	sufficiently + adverb + to - infinitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Same students are unable to write <b>sufficiently well to pass</b> the test. (formal)</li> </ul>
<b>E</b>	more + adjective + than + adjective <b>or</b> not so much + adjective + as + adjective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ I was <b>more surprised than angry</b>.</li> <li>❖ I wasn't <b>so much angry as surprised</b>.</li> </ul>







### **NOTE** This construction can be used to make a distinction between two similar adjectives.

<b>F</b>	be + comparative + to - infinitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It's <b>cheaper to buy</b> a return ticket.</li> </ul>
<b>G</b>	noun + be + comparative + to - infinitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>French is easier to learn</b> than Chinese.</li> <li>❖ <b>Tennis is more interesting to watch</b> than golf. (= It's more interesting to watch tennis than golf.)</li> </ul>



<b>2 comparative + comparative</b>			
<b>A</b>	Two comparatives together are often used in descriptive writing, with verbs of becoming, changing, movement, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The bike began to go <b>faster and faster</b>.</li> <li>❖ The boat was getting <b>further and further</b> away.</li> <li>❖ Jane was growing <b>more and more confused</b>.</li> </ul>	
<b>B</b>	the + comparative or superlative + of the + number / quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This is by far / easily the <b>more interesting of the two</b>.</li> </ul>	
<b>NOTE</b> This structure can be used with a comparative to compare two things.			
<b>C</b>	It can be used with a superlative compare one thing with many things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ I think this one is <b>the best</b> of the lot / them all / the bunch. (<b>informal</b>)</li> </ul>	

<b>present perfect + superlative</b>			
<b>A</b>	We often use the present perfect with a <b>superlative</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This is <b>the worst</b> holiday <b>I've ever had</b>. (I'm on holiday now)</li> <li>❖ That was by far / much <b>the best</b> film <b>I've seen</b> this year</li> </ul>	
<b>B</b>	the + comparative, the + comparative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The more</b> you put off going to the dentist, <b>the worse</b> you will feel.</li> <li>❖ <b>The longer</b> you leave it, <b>the more</b> painful your tooth will become.</li> </ul>	
<b>NOTE</b> This structure is often used to give advice.			
<b>C</b>	Adjectives and adverbs can be mixed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The more</b> exercise I take, <b>the more</b> slowly I run!</li> </ul>	
<b>D</b>	Fixed phrases include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The sooner, the better.</li> <li>❖ The more, the merrier.</li> </ul>	

<b>like and as / as ... as</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Stay for <b>as long as</b> you want.</li> <li>❖ Her hands were <b>as cold as</b> ice.</li> <li>❖ You look <b>as white as</b> a ghost.</li> </ul>		
	<b>as ... as</b> is often used in proverbial expressions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ He was <b>as good as</b> gold.</li> <li>❖ She's <b>as happy as</b> the day is long.</li> </ul>	
<b>like</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A caravan is <b>like</b> a house on wheels (it is similar)</li> </ul>	
<b>look like, smell like</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The school <b>looks like</b> a prison. (it resembles a prison)</li> <li>❖ You <b>smell like</b> a beautiful flower! (the smells are the same)</li> </ul>	
<b>look like, sound like</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It <b>looks like</b> rain. (= it looks as if it's going to rain)</li> <li>❖ That <b>sounds like</b> the postman. (= it sounds as if he has arrived)</li> </ul>	

### 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**.



Haitnam Ba

## EXERCISES

### Exercise 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. He 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.

### Exercise 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.

### Exercise 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.....
- 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.



**kilt**