COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

1.- COMPARATIVE

* EQUALITY:

\[(NOT) \quad \text{AS} + \text{ADJECTIVE} + \text{AS} = \text{tan} .... \text{como}\]

My sister is as intelligent as him.
He is not as tall as Gasol.
The weather in Mexico is as hot as in Spain.
The weather in England is not as hot as in Spain.

* INFERIORITY:

LESS + ADJECTIVE + THAN = menos ...que

He is less tall than Gasol.
The weather in England is less hot than in Spain.
This exam is less difficult than the last one.

* SUPERIORITY:

1) Short adjectives: ADJECTIVE + er + THAN = más ... que

2) Long adjectives: MORE + ADJECTIVE + THAN = más ... que

He is taller than Gasol.
The weather in Spain is hotter than in England.
This exam is more difficult than the last one.
My sister is more intelligent than him.

2.- SUPERLATIVE

1) Short adjectives: THE + ADJECTIVE + est + (NOUN) + (IN /OF) = el /la más ...

2) Long adjectives: THE MOST + ADJECTIVE + (NOUN)+ (IN /OF) = el / la más ...

- The article “THE” normally appears before the superlative form.
- The superlative form can be followed by a complement introduced by:
  IN → When we refer to a PLACE
  OF → in the rest of cases.

Jack is the tallest in the class.
Laura is the most energetic girl of the group.
The Nile is the longest river in the world.
This is the best film I’ve ever seen.
This is the most boring film I’ve ever seen.
This is the most difficult exam I’ve done.

3.- RULES TO USE “-ER / -EST or MORE / MOST”
3.1.- **ADJECTIVE + -ER /-EST**  
With adjectives of one syllable and adjectives of two syllables ending in -y /-er/ -ow.  
(pretty, friendly – clever – narrow)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPELLING</th>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long</td>
<td>longer</td>
<td>the longest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>smaller</td>
<td>the smallest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>faster</td>
<td>the fastest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>higher</td>
<td>the highest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DOUBLE CONSONANT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big</td>
<td>bigger</td>
<td>the biggest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>thinner</td>
<td>the thinnest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slim</td>
<td>slimmer</td>
<td>the slimmest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>fatter</td>
<td>the fattest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y → ier /iest</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>easier</td>
<td>the easiest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busy</td>
<td>busier</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretty</td>
<td>prettier</td>
<td>the prettiest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly</td>
<td>friendlier</td>
<td>the friendliest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucky</td>
<td>luckier</td>
<td>the luckiest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>healthy</td>
<td>healthier</td>
<td>the healthiest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E → r /st</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nice</td>
<td>nicer</td>
<td>the nicest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>larger</td>
<td>the largest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wide</td>
<td>wider</td>
<td>the widest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.- **MORE / MOST + ADJECTIVE**  
With adjectives of two or more syllables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interesting</td>
<td>more interesting</td>
<td>the most interesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boring</td>
<td>more boring</td>
<td>the most boring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligent</td>
<td>more intelligent</td>
<td>the most intelligent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beautiful</td>
<td>more beautiful</td>
<td>the most beautiful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Famous</td>
<td>more famous</td>
<td>the most famous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous</td>
<td>more dangerous</td>
<td>the most dangerous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.- **IRREGULAR FORMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE / *WORD</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>The best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>The worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far</td>
<td>farther /further</td>
<td>The farthest /furthest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*well (adv)</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>The best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*badly (adv)</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>The worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*much/many/a lot of</td>
<td>more</td>
<td>The most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*little</td>
<td>less</td>
<td>The least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*few</td>
<td>fewer</td>
<td>The fewest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I've got **less** money than she has.  
There are **fewer** problems than there were before.

* **Note:**  
It's getting **hotter and hotter**.  
It's getting **more and more dangerous**.  

Autor: Miriam Rivas Llorens
EXERCISES

1. WRITE THE CORRECT COMPARATIVE FOR THESE SENTENCES

1 The Mississippi's longer than the Thames. (long)
2 This hotel's more comfortable than the other one. (comfortable)
3 I think this shop is ____________ that one. (good)
4 The restaurant is ____________ the café. (expensive)
5 Simon's ______________ Mark. (old)
6 I think Scotland is _______________ England. (beautiful)
7 My brother's ______________ I am. (young)
8 I like this school because it's ____________ the other one. (big)
9 Accommodation here is _______________ in my country. (expensive)
10 The weather here is _______________ at home. (cold)
11 I think you're ______________ your father now. (tall)
12 His homework was _______________ mine. (bad)
13 This film is _______________ the one you wanted to see. (interesting)
14 The journey is _______________ I thought. (long)
15 This lesson is _______________ the last one. (difficult)

2. WRITE THE CORRECT COMPARATIVE FOR THESE SENTENCES

1 He is more helpful than he used to be. (helpful)
2 It was slowly getting hotter and hotter. (hot)
3 I had _______________ time than T needed to finish the job. (little)
4 Peter gets _______________ and _______________ all the time. (selfish)
5 You seem _______________ you were yesterday. (happy)
6 My chair was getting _______________ and _______________. (uncomfortable)
7 We need _______________ actors for this film. (young)
8 I think that the new salesman is _______________ the last one. (honest)
9 This road is _______________ and _______________ the last one. (long/dangerous)
10 Is the new car _______________ the old one? (expensive)
11 This system is _______________ the last one we had. (easy)
12 People here are _______________ they are at home. (polite)
13 The man was getting _______________ and _______________. (angry)
14 The city is _______________ it used to be. (crowded)
15 She was feeling _______________ she had been earlier. (miserable)
16 Computers are _______________ nowadays. (complicated)
17 I think trains are _______________ and _______________ cars. (fast/comfortable)
18 We will have to think of a _______________ method. (good)
19 I'm beginning to feel _______________ about the results. (hopeful)
20 She seems to be getting _______________ and _______________. (thin)
21 My new dictionary is a lot _______________ the last one. (useful)
22 These trousers are too wide. Do you have any that are _______________? (narrow)
23 _______________ young people learn to play musical instruments than in the past. (few)
24 The film got _______________ and _______________ until I fell asleep! (boring)
25 I think that people who live in villages are _______________ people in big cities. (friendly)
26 Her new job is a lot _______________ the last one. (stressful)
3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING THE **COMPARATIVE FORM**

1. It’s **hotter** here than in London. (hot)
2. She’s **more imaginative** than her brother. (imaginative)
3. He’s _______________ than all the other students. (old)
4. Do you think Pat is _______________ than Brian? (intelligent)
5. This school is _______________ than ours. (old-fashioned)
6. The computer was _______________ than I thought. (expensive)
7. The rooms are _______________ than they used to be. (clean)
8. He’s _______________ than he was a year ago. (healthy)
9. Do you think English is _______________ than French? (difficult)
10. He eats a lot - he’s getting _______________ and _______________. (fat)
11. His face was getting _______________ and _______________. (red)
12. He was _______________ than I had ever seen him before. (angry)
13. Big cars are _______________ than small ones. (comfortable)
14. My exam was _______________ than I had thought. (bad)
15. The road becomes _______________ after four or five miles. (narrow)
16. I’m sure I’ll find New York _______________ than Houston. (exciting)
17. I need to go to the doctor; this cough is getting _______________ and _______________. (bad)
18. He thinks Charlie Chaplin is _______________ than Mr Bean. (funny)
19. Their ticket was _______________ than mine because they flew on Sunday. (cheap)
20. My son is a lot _______________ now that he’s a teenager. (lazy)

4. WRITE THE **SUPERLATIVES** OF THE WORDS GIVEN

1. This is **the biggest building** in the world. (big building)
2. This is _______________ here. (comfortable chair)
3. He bought _______________ in the shop. (expensive flowers)
4. I think she’s _______________ of the group. (good singer)
5. He’s _______________ of the company. (careful driver)
6. Who’s _______________ in the class? (old student)
7. It’s _______________ I’ve ever seen. (bad film)
8. She’s _______________ of all the students. (intelligent)
9. It was _______________ I had ever heard. (beautiful music)
10. He’s _______________ of all the assistants. (helpful)
11. He’s _______________ in his class. (young)
12. This is _______________ in the world. (poor country)
13. She’s _______________ I’ve ever met. (strange person)
14. I didn’t answer _______________ questions. (difficult)
15. Peter’s _______________ of them all. (old)
5. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH AN ADJECTIVE

Boring comfortable dangerous deep difficult

independent old relaxing valuable

1 This summer is not as hot as last summer.
2 I hope his new book is not as boring as his last one.
3 Flying is not as dangerous as travelling by car.
4 Don’t worry. The river isn’t as deep as it looks.
5 Silver isn’t as valuable as gold.
6 Dogs aren’t as independent as cats.
7 Our new car is very fast, but it’s not as fast as the old one.
8 Do you think French is as difficult to learn as English?
9 Were you really born in 1980? I didn’t realise you were as old as me.
10 For me, lying on the beach is not as relaxing as walking in the mountains.

“TOO” AND “NOT...ENOUGH”

> The infinitive is often used after too + adjective, or not + adjective + enough.

It's too cold to swim today. (We can't swim today - it's too cold.)
It isn’t warm enough to go to the beach.
(We can’t go to the beach - it’s not warm enough.)

> the + comparative ...., the + comparative .... = Cuanto más ...., más ...

The more you eat, the fatter you get. (Cuanto más comes, más gordo te pones)
The more I think, the less I know. (Cuanto más pienso, menos entiendo)
The later you arrive, the better the food is. (Cuanto más tarde llegas, mejor la comida)

6. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH “TOO” OR “NOT...ENOUGH”

1 I can’t walk any further - I’m too tired. (tired)
2 I’m sorry. You’re not old enough to see this film. (old)
3 It’s________________ to work here. Let’s go to the library. (noisy)
4 John was________________ to get into the swimming team. (fast)
5 Your handwriting is________________ to read. (small)
6 I’m afraid we can’t buy that computer. It’s________________ (expensive)
7 I don’t think George should get the new job - he’s________________ (efficient)
8 Those jeans are________________ to wear to the party. (dirty)
9 We couldn’t talk to each other in the pub; the music was________________ (loud)
10 Can you help me with this bottle? I’m too________________ open it. (strong)
7. COMPARATIVE OR SUPERLATIVE??

1. We’ve got (big) problems to worry about
2. Which is (high) mountains in the world?
3. Is it much (cold) in New York?
4. Those were (happy) days of my childhood
5. You’re (lucky) person in the world
6. You’re (lucky) than I am
7. And then, (unbelievable) thing happened
8. She was much (fat) the last time I saw her
9. The film was (boring) than I expected
10. These are too large, Do you have any (small) ones?
11. Was she (young) girl in the group?
12. He is (lazy) now than he ever was
13. That is (expensive) picture in the shop
14. He was driving (fast) than usual
15. I worked (hard) than John
16. It probably takes (long) than an hour
17. This is the (bad) thing that could ever happen to me
18. My (old) sister is a doctor
19. It’s (bad) than I thought
20. It’s (cold) today than it was yesterday

8. TRANSLATE INTO SPANISH

1. Es casi tan alto como yo (tall / me)
2. Regresaré tan pronto como pueda (come back / soon)
3. Es tan estúpido como su hermano
4. La maleta es tan pesada como el bolsó (case / heavy / bag)
5. No eres tan listo como crees (clever / think)
6. No soy tan tonto como crees (stupid)
7. ¿Te sientes mejor ahora? (feel)
8. Llevo aquí más tiempo que ellos (be / long)
9. He trabajado más que nadie (hard / anybody else)
10. Es uno de los mejores escritores del mundo
11. Eso no es lo más importante (important thing)
12. Fue más fácil de lo que esperaba (easy / expect)
13. Él es mayor de lo que imaginas (old / think)
14. Yo lo hice mejor que él (do)
15. Yo canto mejor que ella
16. Me tratan peor que a ella (treat)
17. Cuanto más lo intento, peor lo hago (try / do)
18. Cuanto más lo pienso, menos me gusta (think / like)
19. Cuanto más idiomas aprendas, mejor para tu futuro (languages / learn)
20. Cuantas más hablo con él, mejor me cae (talk to / like)