

# SECTION 15 adjectives and adverbs

## ● grammar summary

**Adjectives** are words like *easy, slow, sorry, important*. They usually tell you more about people or things. They can go before nouns, or after *be, seem, look*, etc.

**Adverbs** are words like *easily, slowly, yesterday, there*. Adverbs tell you, for example, how, when or where something happens.

We can compare people and things with *as ... as, -er than* or *more ... than*.

Joe's *as tall as* me. Jane's *taller than* me. She works *more carefully than* me.

We can use *-est* or *most* to compare people and things with **all of their group**.

Mary's *the most intelligent person in the class*. John is *the oldest of his children*.

We use *-er* and *-est* with **shorter adjectives** and some short adverbs.

## ● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 284.

### ① Write the adverbs.

nice *nicely* ..... complete ..... easy .....  
beautiful ..... probable .....

### ② Correct (✓) or not (x)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ▷ She asked some difficults questions. <del>x</del> | 4 I often play tennis. ...              |
| 1 She was wearing a green, beautiful dress. ...     | 5 I'm not as tall as my sister. ...     |
| 2 You are certainly right. ...                      | 6 Can you drive slower, please? ...     |
| 3 He speaks very well Russian. ...                  | 7 I'm very interesting in politics. ... |

### ③ Circle the correct words.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▷ He talks very <u>fast</u> / fastly.                           | 5 He doesn't work very <i>hard</i> / <i>hardly</i> .                                       |
| 1 I'm <i>terrible</i> / <i>terribly</i> sorry.                  | 6 This is the <i>more</i> / <i>most</i> expensive hotel <i>in</i> / <i>of</i> the country. |
| 2 It looks <i>beautiful</i> / <i>beautifully</i> .              | 7 Ann is much older <i>as</i> / <i>than</i> / <i>that</i> / <i>of</i> her husband.         |
| 3 I drove very <i>careful</i> / <i>carefully</i> on the snow.   |  |
| 4 She spoke to me in <i>perfect</i> / <i>perfectly</i> English. |  |

### ④ Write the comparatives.

old *older* ..... fat ..... happy .....  
late ..... good ..... interesting .....

Great books for young readers!

'Best sports car of the year' – it's bigger, lighter, stronger and faster.

100% organic soup.  
Nothing could be more comforting.

London's wildest nightclub

For smaller kitchens,  
the smallest dishwasher  
in the world

# adjectives *a beautiful little girl who was not stupid*

Adjectives go before, not after nouns.

<sup>1</sup> a <sup>2</sup> long journey (NOT ~~a journey long~~)      <sup>1</sup> loud <sup>2</sup> music (NOT ~~music loud~~)

Adjectives **don't change** for singular and plural.

a fast car      fast cars (NOT ~~fasts cars~~)

Before nouns, we **don't** usually put *and* between adjectives.

a big bad wolf (NOT ~~a big and bad wolf~~)

Colour adjectives usually come **after** others.

beautiful red apples (NOT ~~red beautiful apples~~)

## ① Put in the adjectives and write the story.

One day, a time ago, (long fine)  
a girl (beautiful little)  
in a coat (red)  
was walking through a forest (dark)  
with a bag (big)  
of apples (red wonderful)  
to see her grandmother. (old)  
Under a tree (tall green)  
she saw a wolf (big bad)  
with teeth. (white long)

► One fine day, a long time ago.  
1 .....  
2 .....  
3 .....  
4 .....  
5 .....  
6 .....  
7 .....  
8 .....  
9 .....

## ② Put the words in the correct order and continue the story.

'good little, girl morning', said  
big the bad wolf.  
'going you where are  
that with bag heavy  
day this fine on?'  
'going my see to grandmother I'm old'  
girl the said little.  
'lives small she in house a  
new the supermarket near.'

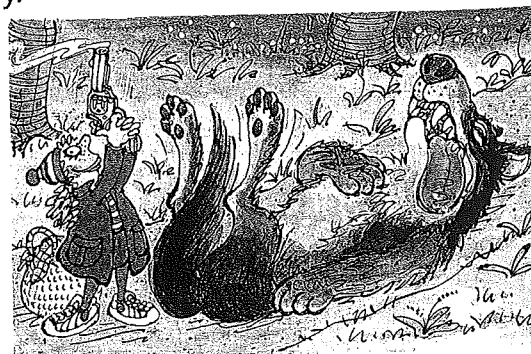
1 'Good .....  
2 .....  
3 .....  
4 .....  
5 .....  
6 .....  
7 .....  
8 .....  
9 .....

## ③ Put in adjectives from the box to finish the story.

big	friendly	stupid	little
-----	----------	--------	--------

'OK,' said the wolf in a 1 ..... voice.  
'I'll see you later.' 'I don't think so,' said  
the 2 ..... girl, who was not  
3 ..... She took a 4 .....  
pistol out of her bag and shot the wolf dead.

(from an idea by James Thurber)



'I don't think so,' said the little girl.

Adjectives can go after *be, become, get, seem, look* (= 'seem') and *feel*.

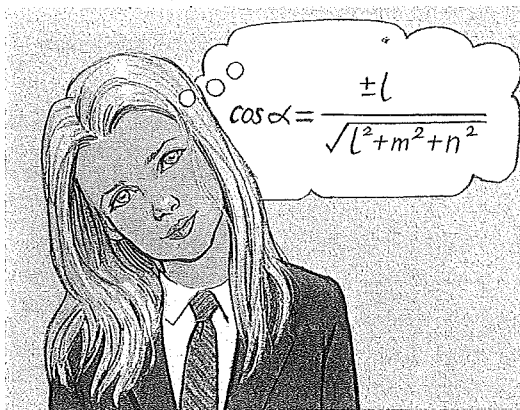
*The water is cold. Everything became clear. It's getting late. You seem tired.*  
*She looks happy. I feel hot.*

After these verbs, we put **and** before the last of two or more adjectives.

*He was tall, dark and handsome. (NOT ~~He was tall, dark, handsome.~~) You look well and happy.*

**4 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences, using words from the box.**

and and beautiful cold hungry intelligent tired



- 1 She is ..... 2 He looks .....

**5 Make sentences.**

- 'Bill / be / very / tall.' *'Bill's very tall.'* ..... 'Yes, he's nearly 2 metres.'  
 1 'That car / look / expensive.' ..... 'No, it's cheap.'  
 2 'Jane / seem / happy.' ..... 'She's in love again.'  
 3 'I / feel / ill.' ..... 'Shall I call the doctor?'  
 4 It / get / dark / very early here in winter. ....  
 5 My parents / getting / old. ....

**6 Make sentences with adjectives from the box.**

Australian bad beautiful hot ✓ late rich

- This water / not be very / ... *This water isn't very hot.* .....  
 1 'The train / be / ...' ..... 'No, it's on time.'  
 2 'He / look / ...' ..... 'No, he's American.'  
 3 'Your hair / look / ...' ..... 'Oh, thanks.'  
 4 My memory / getting very / ... .....  
 5 I want / become ... / and famous .....

We don't usually use adjectives without nouns.

*'Ann's ill.' 'The poor girl.'* (NOT *'The poor.'*)

➔ For word order in sentences like *Is Bill very tall?*, see page 106.

# adverbs *He ate quickly. It was badly cooked.*

## ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Adjectives are connected with **nouns** and **pronouns**. They usually tell you more about **people** or **things**. They can go before nouns, or after *be, seem, look*, etc (see pages 200–201).

Adverbs are connected with **other words** – for example **verbs**.

Some adverbs tell you **how something happens**. These often end in *-ly*.

*It's an easy language.*

*You can learn this language easily.*

*The music is slow.*

*The pianist is playing slowly.*

*Her ideas are interesting.*

*She spoke interestingly about her ideas.*

*Joe looked hungry.*

*Joe ate hungrily.*

### 1 Choose an adjective or an adverb.

- ▷ Could I have a *quick* ..... quick word with you? (*quick / quickly*)
- ▷ She walked away *quickly* ..... (*quick / quickly*)
- 1 This is a ..... train – it stops everywhere. (*slow / slowly*)
- 2 He talked very ..... about his work. (*interesting / interestingly*)
- 3 You've cooked the meat ..... (*beautiful / beautifully*)
- 4 I've got an ..... job for you. (*easy / easily*)
- 5 She writes in ..... English. (*perfect / perfectly*)
- 6 I sing very ..... (*bad / badly*)
- 7 I feel ..... today. (*happy / happily*)
- 8 You seem very ..... (*angry / angrily*)
- 9 Anne's a ..... swimmer. (*strong / strongly*)
- 10 Could you talk more ....., please? (*quiet / quietly*)

## HOW TO MAKE -LY ADVERBS

- **usually: adjective + -ly:** *quick* → *quickly*    *real* → *really* (NOT *realy*)    *complete* → *completely*
- *-y* → *-ily*: *easy* → *easily*    *happy* → *happily*
- *-ble* → *-bly*: *possible* → *possibly*

### 2 Write the adverbs.

- ▷ wrong *wrongly* .....
- 1 final .....
- 2 sincere .....
- 3 loud .....
- 4 thirsty .....
- 5 probable .....
- 6 usual .....
- 7 nice .....
- 8 wonderful .....
- 9 cold .....
- 10 unhappy .....
- 11 comfortable .....



Some **adverbs** tell you **when** or **where** something happens.

*I'm going away tomorrow. We ran downhill. The accident happened there.*

Others tell you **how much**: for example **much** (especially in negatives and questions – see page 168), **a lot**, **a bit** (conversational), **a little**.

*We don't go out much. I watch TV a lot. I play the guitar a bit. He sings a little.*

Adverbs that say **how**, **where**, **when** or **how much** often come **at the end of a sentence**. (Some can also come at the beginning.) They do **not** come **between the verb and the object**.

	VERB	OBJECT	ADVERB	
She	speaks	English	well.	(NOT <del>She speaks well English.</del> )
They	make	very good bread	here.	(NOT <del>They make here very good bread.</del> )
I	bought	a lot of clothes	yesterday.	(NOT <del>I bought yesterday a lot of clothes.</del> )
We	didn't enjoy	the holiday	much.	(NOT <del>We didn't enjoy much the holiday.</del> )

### 3 Make sentences with adverbs from the box. (Different answers are possible.)

carefully clearly correctly perfectly slowly tomorrow much yesterday

▷ soup / cook / the *Cook the soup slowly. OR Cook the soup carefully.*

- 1 the / read / I / letter .....
- 2 computer / bought / a / I .....
- 3 name / your / write .....
- 4 see / must / the / doctor / you .....
- 5 languages / speaks / he / four .....
- 6 the / you / write / address / didn't .....
- 7 skiing / don't like / I .....

**Very much** can be used in affirmative (肯定) sentences as well as negatives and questions. Be careful of the word order.

*I like sport very much. (NOT ~~I like very much sport.~~)*

### 4 Write about four things that you like very much.

- 1 I like ..... very much. 3 .....
- 2 ..... 4 .....

Adverbs can go before **adjectives**, and before **past participles** (for example *broken*, *finished*).

*terribly sorry (NOT ~~terrible sorry~~) nearly ready completely finished*

### 5 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

cooked empty finished interesting married ✓ sorry tired written

▷ Joe and Ann have been happily *married* ..... for twenty-five years.

- 1 I'm terribly ..... to tell you that we have no more tickets.
- 2 There's nothing to eat – the fridge is completely .....
- 3 The book's very well ....., but it's not terribly .....
- 4 After walking all day, Peter was extremely .....
- 5 The food here is very well ....., but they don't give you enough.
- 6 'Is your new house ready yet?' 'It's nearly .....

# adverbs with the verb *often, certainly, etc*

Some adverbs, for example *always* or *certainly*, usually go **with the verb**.

how often: *always* *often* *usually* *sometimes* *ever* *hardly ever* (= 'almost never') *never*

how certainly: *certainly* *definitely* *probably*

other: *already* *also* *just* *still* *even* *only*

These adverbs go before most verbs, but after **auxiliary verbs** (*have, will, can, must* etc) and after *am/are/is/was/were*.

*She always comes here at weekends.*

*I certainly like London.*

*Andy often gets ill.*

*We already know each other.*

*She hardly ever sees him.*

*I have already read that book.*

*It will probably rain tomorrow.*

*She can certainly help you.*

*I am only here to see Barbara.*

*You are certainly right.*

## ① Put the adverbs in the correct places.

► I speak French, but people know that I'm English. (*often; always*)

~~I often speak French, but people always know that I'm English.~~

1 Jake eats fish. He eats fish for breakfast. (*always; even*)

2 Ann plays tennis, but she plays in the evenings. (*often; only*)

3 Ed puts tomato sauce on everything. He puts it on ice cream. (*usually; probably*)

4 Your sister is a good singer. She is a very interesting person. (*certainly; also*)

5 My mother is asleep. I think she is ill. (*still; probably*)

6 I get to the station on time, and the train is late. (*always; always*)

In questions, these adverbs usually go **after auxiliary verb + subject**.

*Do you ever write poems?      Has Mary always lived here?      Are you often in London?*

## ② Put the adverbs in the correct places.

1 Do you play cards? (*often*)

2 Have you been to Tibet? (*ever*)

3 Are you happy? (*always*)

4 Does the boss take a holiday? (*ever*)

5 Do you eat in restaurants? (*usually*)

6 Is Barbara ill? (*still*)



# interested and interesting, etc

*Interested, bored, excited* etc say how people feel.

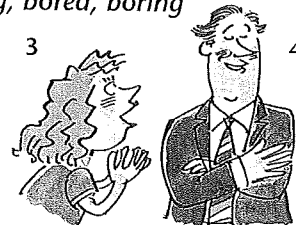
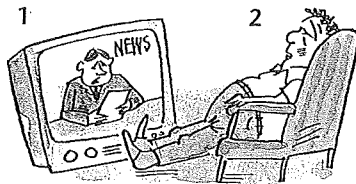
*Interesting, boring, exciting* etc describe the things (or people) that cause the feelings.

*She's very interested in the lessons.* (NOT ~~*She's very interesting in the lessons.*~~)

*The lessons are always interesting.* (NOT ~~*The lessons are always interested.*~~)

*I'm often bored at work, because I've got a boring job.*

## 1 Write these words under the pictures: *interested, interesting, bored, boring*



1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 .....

## 2 Put in words from the box.

annoyed (= 'a little angry') ✓ frightening surprised surprising	annoying exciting exciting frightened
--	--

- 1 Somebody phones you late at night. You are *annoyed*. He/she is .....
- 2 A woman hears noises at night. She is ..... The noises are .....
- 3 A family makes ..... holiday plans. The children are very .....
- 4 Your exam mark is very good. This is ..... And you are .....

## 3 Here are the beginnings of five books. Write what you think of the books. Use *very interesting, quite interesting, not very interesting, quite boring* or *very boring*.

- 1 After King Leofric died in 1342, ...  
I think this book is probably .....
- 2 The moment Olga walked into Alan's office, he realised his life had changed for ever ...  
I think .....
- 3 Since the beginning of history, cats ...  
.....
- 4 The man in black had already killed five people that morning. The sixth ...  
.....
- 5 Four billion years ago, our world ...  
.....

## 4 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: adverbs of degree; subjects of study

Make sure you know the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then write how interested you are in some of the subjects. You can use *extremely* (= +++), *very*, *quite*, *not very*, *not* or *not at all* (= ---).

art biology economics history literature mathematics philosophy physics politics
--

I'm extremely interested in ..... I'm .....

I'm very bored by ..... .....

I'm not at all ..... .....



## fast, hard, hardly, well, friendly, ...

Fast, hard, late, early, daily, weekly and monthly are **adjectives** and **adverbs**.

He's got a *fast* car.      He drives *fast*.      I got an *early* flight.      I went home *early*.  
It's *hard* work.      She works *hard*.      It's a *weekly* paper.      I buy it *weekly*.  
The train was *late*.      Trains are running *late*.

Hardly and lately have different meanings from hard and late.

Hardly = 'almost not'; lately = 'recently', 'not long ago'

He *hardly* works these days – maybe one day a week.      Have you heard from John *lately*?

Well can be an **adjective** (the opposite of ill) or an **adverb** (the opposite of badly).

'How are you?' 'Very *well*, thanks.'      The team are *playing well*.

### 1 These are sentences from real conversations. Put in words from the boxes.

early	hard	hardly	weekly	well
-------	------	--------	--------	------

- 1 And I really understand Italian quite .....
- 2 You've got no playschool tomorrow so you haven't got to get up ....., have you?
- 3 Why should I work ..... when you never do anything?
- 4 Departures from the UK are ....., mid-morning on Sundays from Dover.
- 5 She was really, you know, nervous, and ..... came out of her flat at all.

### 2 Choose the best answer.

▷ You look *well* ....., Mike. (*early* / *lately* / *well*)

- 1 Your father read the ..... Express when he was alive. (*hardly* / *Daily* / *lately*)
- 2 You haven't seen the window cleaner ....., have you? (*lately* / *hard* / *weekly*)
- 3 I ran as ..... as I could, along the Tottenham Court Road. (*early* / *fast* / *hardly*)
- 4 I ..... sleep – an hour at a time. (*well* / *hard* / *hardly*)
- 5 I got up ..... to finish some work. (*well* / *hardly* / *early*)

Friendly, lonely, lovely, silly are **adjectives**, not adverbs.

She gave me a *friendly* smile. (BUT NOT ~~She smiled friendly.~~)

He was very *lonely*. (BUT NOT ~~He walked lonely through the streets.~~)

Her voice is *lovely*. (BUT NOT ~~She sings lovely.~~)      Don't be *silly*.

There are no adverbs *friendlily*, *lovelily* etc. Instead, we use other words or expressions.

She spoke *in a friendly way*.      She sings *beautifully*.

### 3 Put in adjectives and adverbs from the box.

daily	early ✓	fast	friendly	hard	hardly	late	lonely	silly
-------	---------	------	----------	------	--------	------	--------	-------

I don't like getting up ▷ *early* ..... so I usually stay in bed too long, and then have to eat breakfast very 1 ..... and run for my train. On the train I read the 2 ..... paper, because after I get to work there's no more time for reading. The boss is nice, but she makes us work very 3 ....., and I often have to stay 4 ..... to finish everything. There's a nice new secretary in the office. I 5 ..... know her, but she always gives me a 6 ..... smile when I arrive. She hasn't lived here long. Perhaps it's a 7 ..... idea, but I wonder if she's 8 ..... I think I'll ask her out.

# comparative and superlative adjectives: forms

Comparative adjectives are forms like *colder*, *more famous*.

Superlative adjectives are forms like *coldest*, *most famous*.

- most short (one-syllable) adjectives: + -er, -est      *old* → *older*, *oldest*
- short adjectives ending in -e: + -r, -st      *nice* → *nicer*, *nicest*

## ① Write the comparative and superlative adjectives.

- ▶ cold *colder, coldest* ..... 5 strange .....
- ▶ late *later, latest* ..... 6 fine .....
- 1 green ..... 7 high .....
- 2 safe ..... 8 wide .....
- 3 rich ..... 9 near .....
- 4 small ..... 10 white .....

- short adjectives ending in one vowel + one consonant:  
double consonant + -er, -est      *fat* → *fatter*, *fattest*      *thin* → *thinner*, *thinnest*  
BUT don't double w:      *low* → *lower*, *lowest*

## ② Write the comparative and superlative adjectives.

- ▶ red *redder, reddest* ..... 2 hot ..... 4 wet .....
- ▶ slow *slower, slowest* ..... 3 new ..... 5 slim .....
- 1 big .....

- two-syllable adjectives ending in -y: y → i + -er, -est      *happy* → *happier*, *happiest*

## ③ Write the comparative and superlative adjectives.

- ▶ friendly *friendlier, friendliest* ..... 3 sleepy .....
- 1 lazy ..... 4 angry .....
- 2 hungry ..... 5 dirty .....

- most other longer adjectives: + *more*, *most* — *hopeful* → *more hopeful*, *most hopeful*

## ④ Write the comparative and superlative adjectives.

- ▶ famous *more famous, most famous* ..... 4 dangerous .....
- 1 careful ..... 5 important .....
- 2 beautiful ..... 6 boring .....
- 3 intelligent ..... 7 interested .....

- irregular adjectives:      *good* → *better*, *best*      *bad* → *worse*, *worst*  
                                 *far* → *further*, *furthest* OR *farther*, *farthest*

## ⑤ Put in irregular comparative adjectives.

- ▶ I know that my handwriting is bad, but Jenny's is *worse* .....
- 1 I'm so tired. Is the bus stop much .....?
- 2 I don't enjoy train travel here, but I do in France — the trains are ..... there.
- 3 'How's your toothache today?' 'It's .....' 'You should see a dentist.'

# comparative or superlative?

We use comparatives to compare people and things with **other people and things**.

*A is bigger than B. A is bigger than B and c. John is a more careful driver than Robin.*



◀ Dawn is tall.



◀ Dawn is taller than Leah. ▶



◀ Dawn is taller than all the other players. ▶



We use superlatives (usually with *the*) to compare people and things with **all of the group that they are in**.

*A is the biggest of the three letters A, B and c. John is the most careful driver in the family.*



◀ Dawn is the tallest player in the team.

## 1 Circle the correct answer.

- ▶ Dawn is older / the oldest than all of her sisters.
- ▶ Leah is taller / the tallest person in her family.
- 1 All of your friends are nice, but George is certainly the nicer / the nicest.
- 2 This is the better / the best women's basketball team in the country.
- 3 Basketballs are more expensive / the most expensive than footballs.
- 4 Ice hockey is a more dangerous / most dangerous sport than basketball or tennis.
- 5 Of all the sports in the Olympics, which sport is more dangerous? / the most dangerous?
- 6 A basketball court is usually bigger / the biggest than a tennis court.

## 2 Choose a comparative or a superlative. Remember to use *the* before the superlatives.

- ▶ 'The Marriage of Figaro' is the most beautiful ..... of all Mozart's operas. (beautiful)
- ▶ My new car is faster ..... than my old one. (fast)
- 1 My mother and her sisters are all ..... than their children. (short)
- 2 I think Annie is ..... person in our class. (intelligent)
- 3 Let's meet in the library – it's ..... than all the other rooms. (quiet)
- 4 My bedroom is ..... room in the house. (cold)
- 5 A 3-year-old's voice is ..... than 200 people in a busy restaurant. (loud)
- 6 Brazil is ..... South American country. (big)

# comparatives: use *brighter than the moon*

We use *than* after comparative adjectives.

Russia is **bigger than** China. (NOT ... ~~that~~ China.)

Rob and Tina are **older than** Emma.

## 1 Compare each pair of things in the box. Write two sentences for each pair.

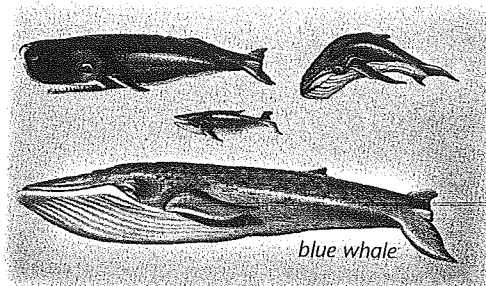
COMPARE: the sun and the moon ✓	dogs and cats	train travel and air travel
the Sahara and the Himalayas		
ADJECTIVES: bright ✓	cheap	cold
	fast	friendly
	hot	intelligent
		small ✓

- ▶ The sun is brighter than the moon. .... 3 .....
- ▶ The moon is smaller than the sun. .... 4 .....
- 1 ..... 5 .....
- 2 ..... 6 .....

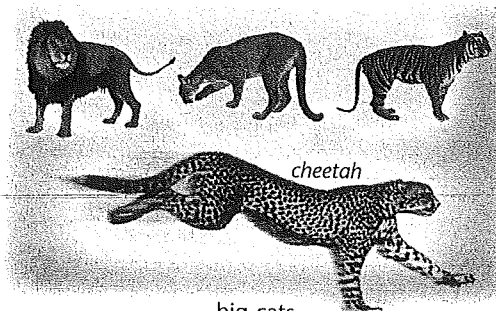
## 2 Use comparative adjectives with ... *than all the other* ...

▶ Alaska's area is 1,518,700km<sup>2</sup>. No other US state is so large.  
*Alaska is larger than all the other US states.*

- 1 The Amazon is 6,670km long. No other river in South America is so long.  
 ....
- 2 Blue whales can weigh 120 tonnes. No other whales are so heavy.  
 ....
- 3 Mont Blanc is 4,807m high. No other mountain in the Alps is so high.  
 ....
- 4 Cheetahs can run 110km/h. No other big cats are so fast.  
 ....



whales



big cats

With comparatives, we can say ... *than I am* / *than you are* / *than John is* etc.

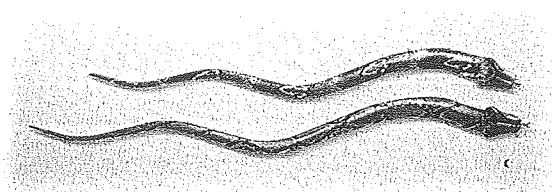
But in informal spoken English, we usually prefer ... *than me/you/him/her/it/us/them*.

## 3 Write two endings for each sentence: one with *than me*, *than you* etc and one with *than I am*, *than you are* etc.

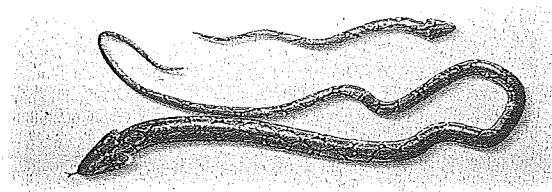
▶ Bob was angry, but I ... *was angrier than him* / *than he was*...

- 1 John's very careful with money, but Maria .....
- 2 I'm hungry, but you must be .....
- 3 You're not very short. Tony's .....
- 4 We're excited, but our children .....
- 5 My girlfriend is so beautiful. No other woman .....

We can use *a lot* / *a bit* (more conversational) or *much* / *a little* before comparatives.  
 Your cooking is *much better* than my sister's. (NOT ... ~~very better~~ AND NOT ... ~~too better~~ ...)  
 This book is *a lot more interesting* than that one.      You sound *a bit happier* today.



*a bit longer*



*much longer*

- 4 Use the table. Write sentences about Mark and Simon with *a bit* / *a little* and *a lot* / *much* with the adjectives from the box.

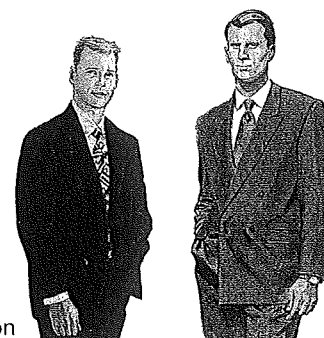
short ✓ / tall      old / young      rich      fast / slow      comfortable      quiet / noisy

	How tall?	How old?	How rich?
Mark	1m95	35	€900,000/year
Simon	1m85	36	€250,000/year

	How fast?	How comfortable?	How quiet?
Mark's car	190km/h	★★★	★★
Simon's car	130km/h	★★	★★★★★

▷ *Simon is a bit (or a little) shorter than Mark.*

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....
- 9 .....



Simon

Mark

We can use *more than* and *less than* without adjectives.

Liz spent *more than a week's pay* on that dress.      It took us *less than ten minutes* to get home.

5 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: time

Make sure you know the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then answer the questions.

century    day    decade    fortnight    hour    minute    month    second    week    year

- ▷ How much is a minute? ... *More than a second and less than an hour* .....
- 1 How much is a decade? .....
  - 2 How much is a month? .....
  - 3 How much is a fortnight? .....
  - 4 How much is a week? .....

# superlatives *the highest mountain in the world*

After **superlatives**, we normally use *in* before the names of **places**.

*Everest is the **highest** mountain **in the world**.*

*Jan is the **most intelligent** person **in the office**.*

*Sirius is the **brightest** star **in the sky**.*

After **superlatives**, we also use *in* before **singular** words for **groups of people**.

*Sam is the **youngest** player **in the orchestra**.*

*Wilkins is the **oldest** minister **in this government**.*

In most **other cases**, we use *of* after superlatives.

*Ann's the **tallest** of the **three sisters**.      This is the **shortest** day of the year.*

## ① Put the beginnings, middles and ends together.

1 Jonathan is	A the biggest state ...	m in the group. ...
2 My great-great-aunt is	B the longest river ...	n in my family. ...
3 London is	C the best musician ...	o in the team. <u>1</u>
4 Alaska is	D the fastest runner <u>1</u>	p in Africa. ...
5 The guitar player is	E the biggest city ...	q in Britain. ...
6 The Nile is	F the oldest person ...	r in the USA. ...
7 My parents' room is	G the most expensive ...	s of the four bedrooms. ...
8 The Mercedes is	H the longest day ...	t of the five girls. ...
9 Sarah is	I the youngest ...	u of the three cars. ...
10 June 21st is	J the biggest ...	v of the year. ...

## ② Write sentences with superlatives.

► In my job, Friday / busy day / week

*In my job, Friday is the busiest day of the week.*

1 In the 1970s, the Beatles / rich musicians / world

2 Eric says that Eleanor / good singer / group

3 When I was a child, my father / tall man / our town

4 In this country, February / cold month / year

5 Who / old / your three aunts?

6 Helen is very intelligent, but she / quiet person / my class

There is so much good in the worst of us,  
and so much bad in the best of us.

(Author unknown)

# comparison of adverbs *More slowly, please.*

To make the **comparative** of most adverbs: **more + adverb (... than)**

Can you speak **more quietly**, please?

I'm working **more slowly** today **than** yesterday.

Angela writes **more clearly** **than** Ellie.

## 1 Write sentences with comparative adverbs and **than**.

- Jo drives / dangerously / Sam *Jo drives more dangerously than Sam.*
- 1 Lee talks to people / politely / Ben .....
- 2 Liam works / carefully / John .....
- 3 Simon goes swimming / often / Karen .....
- 4 My car runs / quietly / my sister's car .....
- 5 Annie talks / slowly / Rob .....

**Early, late, fast, hard, near** and **soon** have comparatives with **-er**, like adjectives.

I got to the station **earlier** than Mary.

Bill lives **nearer** to school than Pete, so he gets up **later**.

Irregular comparatives and superlatives: **well** → **better**    **badly** → **worse**    **far** → **further/farther**  
**little** → **less**    **a lot / much** → **more**

My mother drives **better** than my father.

He sings **badly**, but I sing **worse**.

She talks **less** than he does, but she thinks **more**.

I live **further** from the centre than you.

## 2 Use the comparatives of the adverbs in the box to complete the advice.

early	fast	hard ✓	late	little	much	near
-------	------	--------	------	--------	------	------

- 'I want to earn more money.' 'Work *harder*.....'
- 1 'I want to eat my breakfast slowly in the morning.' 'Get up .....
- 2 'I want to get more sleep.' 'Get up .....
- 3 'I want to be stronger.' 'Exercise .....
- 4 'I hate driving to work.' 'Live ..... to your work and walk.'
- 5 'I get a lot of headaches.' 'Try to worry .....
- 6 'I'm afraid I'm going to miss the train.' 'Walk .....

Sentences with superlative adverbs (for example *John drives **the most dangerously***) are not very common.



From *Annie Get Your Gun*.  
Words and music by Irving Berlin

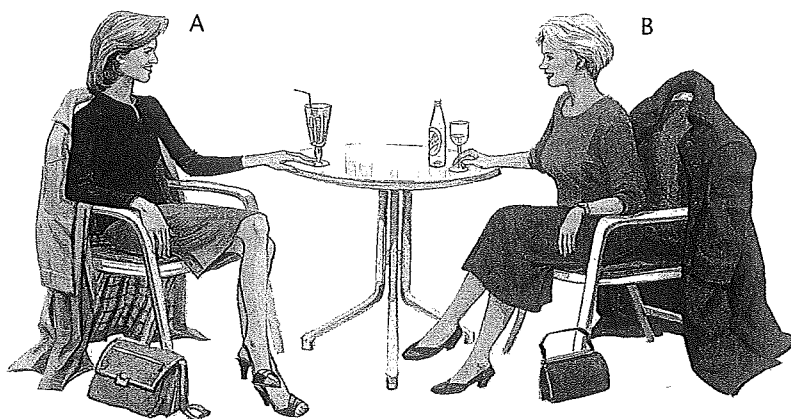
We use **(not) as ... as** to say that people and things are **(not) the same in some way**.  
*I don't think Tom is going to be **as tall as** his sister.      Your hands are **as cold as** ice.*  
*Can you read this for me? My eyes aren't **as good as** yours.*

Jean isn't as old as Cassie.

Cassie's hair isn't as long as Jean's.

Jean's hands aren't as small as Cassie's.

Jean isn't as fair as Cassie.



Picture A is .....

Picture B is .....

Now write some more sentences about Jean and Cassie with *not as ... as*.

- 1 slim .....  
2 tall .....  
3 skirt / long .....  
4 bag / big .....  
5 coat / heavy .....  
6 glass / big .....

With *as ... as*, we can say ... *as I am* / *as you are* / *as John is* etc. But in informal **spoken English**, we usually prefer ... *as me/you/him/her/it/us/them*.

2 Change the sentences in two ways, but keep the same meaning.

▶ Joan's prettier than her sister. Joan's sister isn't as pretty as her.  
Joan's sister isn't as pretty as she is.

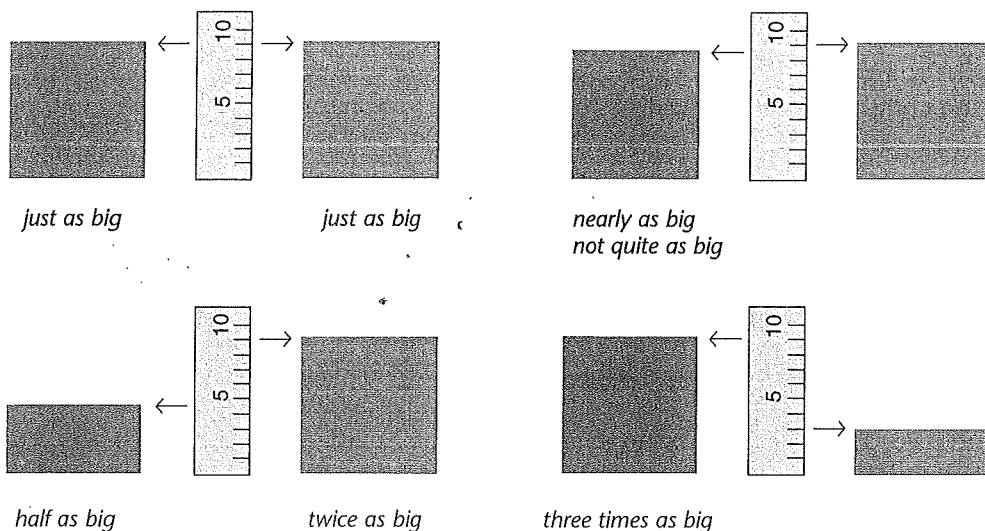
- 1 You're nicer than the other doctor. The other doctor .....
- 2 He's more interesting than his boss. ....
- 3 I'm slimmer than my mother. ....
- 4 We're more careful than the Browns. ....



We can put *just, nearly, not quite* and *half, twice, three times* etc before *as ... as*.

He's *just as* handsome as his brother. My hair is *not quite as* fair as my sister's hair.

The twins are *nearly as* tall as their mother. Brazil is *half as* big as Russia.



- 3 Think of a member of your family. Compare yourself to him or her, using *as ... as* and some of the words and expressions from the box. Write five sentences.

BEFORE AS:	just	nearly	not quite	half	twice	three times etc			
ADJECTIVES:	dark	fair	friendly	handsome	happy	intelligent	kind	nice	
	old	pretty	quiet	short	slim	tall			

- ▶ I'm *nearly as tall as* Annie. 3 .....
- ▶ I'm *not quite as old as* her. 4 .....
- 1 ..... 5 .....
- 2 ..... 6 .....

We can use *as much as* and *as many as* with nouns.

Deborah doesn't work *as many hours as* I do, but she makes *just as much money as* me.

- 4 Make sentences with *as ... as* or *not as ... as*, and some of the expressions from Exercise 3.

- ▶ Alice has \$200 and Matt has \$100. ... *Alice has twice as much money as* Matt. ....
- 1 Eric has 20 cousins, and Tony has 10. Eric .....  
.....
- 2 Ben eats 3 sandwiches every day; Jo eats 1. ....  
.....
- 3 Helen has 23 computer games and Adrian has 25. ....  
.....
- 4 Liz drinks 6 cups of coffee a day; Chris drinks 12. ....  
.....
- 5 Mike has 600 books, and David has 600 too. ....  
.....
- 6 Nedjma only has a little free time; Ali has a lot. ....  
.....

# test yourself    adjectives and adverbs

## 1 Write the adverbs.

quick *quickly*    real .....    complete .....    possible .....    happy .....

## 2 Write the comparatives and superlatives.

tall ..... *taller tallest* .....    easy .....  
interesting .....    bad .....  
thin .....    far .....  
cheap .....    good .....

## 3 These sentences are all wrong (X). Can you correct the mistakes?

- She was wearing a red beautiful coat. .... *a beautiful red coat* .....
- 1 There are films interestings on TV tonight. ....
  - 2 There's a good and cheap restaurant in Dover St. ....
  - 3 He's tall, dark, good-looking. ....
  - 4 She's the best pianist of the world. ....
  - 5 My sister is much taller that me. ....
  - 6 Anna is the more beautiful person here. ....
  - 7 I am very interesting in the lessons. ....

## 4 Where do the adjectives and adverbs go?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ► I am <i>ready</i> . ( <i>nearly</i> )           | 2 She speaks Chinese. ( <i>very well</i> ) |
| 1 He was wearing dirty trousers. ( <i>black</i> ) | 3 I lost my keys. ( <i>yesterday</i> )     |

## 5 Circle the correct answers.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 You are making a <i>terrible</i> / <i>terribly</i> mistake. | 3 I cook very <i>bad</i> / <i>badly</i> .            |
| 2 She walked up the steps <i>slow</i> / <i>slowly</i> .       | 4 Ann looks very <i>unhappy</i> / <i>unhappily</i> . |

## 6 Where do the adverbs go?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 They've been married for 15 years. ( <i>happily</i> ) | 3 Ann and Simon are late. ( <i>always</i> )         |
| 2 We go to New York. ( <i>often</i> )                   | 4 She's an interesting person. ( <i>certainly</i> ) |

## 7 Circle the correct answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 It was raining <i>hard</i> / <i>hardly</i> when I got up.    | 3 I'm <i>terrible</i> / <i>terribly</i> sorry I arrived so <i>late</i> / <i>lately</i> . |
| 2 The boss is a really <i>friend</i> / <i>friendly</i> person. | 4 Please drive <i>slowlier</i> / <i>more slowly</i> .                                    |

## 8 Look at the pictures and make sentences.

- B / fast / A    *B is faster than A* .....
- 1 A / fast / B    A is not as .....  
2 C / expensive / A .....  
3 A / expensive / B .....  
4 B / expensive    B is the .....  
5 B / big / C .....  
6 C / big / A .....  
7 C / big .....



A    £14,999  
Maximum speed  
120 km/h



B    £29,999  
Maximum speed  
200 km/h



C    £19,999  
Maximum speed  
150 km/h

## 9 More difficult questions