

COMPARISON

Comparatives

➤ After comparatives, you use **than**.

➤ **-er or more...**:

- **-er** for short words (one syllable) or for two-syllable words ending in -y (→ **-ier**)

- **more...** for longer words (2 syllables or more) or for adverbs ending in -ly

- some two-syllable adjectives (→ clever, narrow, quiet, shallow, simple) can be used with **-er or more...** .

➤ irregular forms:

- good/well → **better**

- bad/badly → **worse**

- far → **further** (figurative use and proper use) / **farther** (proper use only)

➤ before comparatives, you can use:

much, a lot, far (= a lot), a bit, a little, slightly (= a little)

➤ **any and no + comparative**:

→ *This isn't any worse than mine! / Do you feel any better? / This book is not any cheaper than the other one.*

➤ **-er and -er / more and more...**:

= the change is continuous

→ *Your English is getting better and better. / She is more and more bored with her job... / There are more and more people taking Chinese courses.*

➤ **The..., the...**:

- **the (-er/more...) the better** → *Please come! The sooner the better. / The more, the merrier!*

- **the..., the...** → *The younger you are, the easier it is to learn. / The more I thought about the plan, the less I liked it.*

➤ **older / elder**:

elder (and **older**) to talk about people in the family

→ *an elder sister/brother/daughter/son... My sister is elder than me.*

➤ **not as/so... as**:

→ *David is not as rich as Joe = Joe is richer than David.*

→ *I don't know as many people as you do = You know more people than I do.*

➤ **as... as** in positive sentences and in questions:

so... as is **only** possible in negative sentences.

➤ **less... than = not as... as:**

→ *I spent less money than you = I did not spend as much money as you.*

→ *He is less rich than me = He is not as rich as me = I am richer than him.*

➤ **twice as... as / three times... as:**

→ *Petrol is twice as expensive as it was a few years ago*

→ *Their house is three times as big as ours!*

➤ **the same as (~~the same like / the same than~~):**

→ *David is the same age as me*

➤ **than me / than I am...:**

You can say either, but the clause is better/more formal than the pronoun

→ *You're taller than me / You're taller than I am.*

→ *He's not as clever as her. / He's not as clever as she is.*

Superlatives

➤ Before superlatives, you normally use **the**.

➤ **the -est / the most...:**

- **the -est**: same as with comparatives

- **the most...** : same as with comparatives

➤ irregular forms:

- good/well → **the best**

- bad/badly → **the worst**

- far → **the furthest** (figurative use and proper use), **the farthest** (proper use only)

➤ **the oldest / the eldest:**

the eldest (and **the oldest**) to talk about people in the family

→ *My eldest son is 13. The eldest of my sons is 13.*

➤ After comparatives, you normally use **in** with places, and **of** for periods of time:

→ *This is the nicest room in the hotel.*

→ *That was the happiest day of my life!*

➤ We often use the present perfect (have + past part.) with a superlative:

→ *This was the best weekend I've had for a long time.*