

## Comparison: adjectives and adverbs

*Oxford Grammar for Schools* is a 5-level series that helps students understand and practise grammar, supporting and extending what they learn in their coursebooks. This lesson introduces or reviews adjectives and adverbs for comparison, and practises using *Not as ... as ... / less ... than* to make comparisons.

### Comparative and superlative adjectives

We use the comparative adjective with **than** to compare two people or things.



Pete is **stronger** than Tim.

We can use the comparative to compare two groups.  
*Doctors are **richer than** nurses.*  
*Paris is **more beautiful than** Manchester.*

With the superlative, we use **the** before the adjective.  
*I've got three brothers. Mike is **the oldest**.*  
*Yesterday was **the hottest** day of the year.*  
*'The Simpsons' is **the most enjoyable** programme on TV.*

After the adjective, we use **in** before places or nouns for a group of people (e.g. *team, family*).

We use the superlative adjective with **the** when we compare three or more things.



But Max is **the strongest**.

*It's **the tallest** building in my town.*  
*Amy is **the most intelligent** person in the class.*

We use **of** before other nouns.  
*It was **the funniest film of** the year.*

We can also use superlatives with the phrase **I've ever ...**  
*This is **the most interesting** book I've ever read.*

See Reference page 175 for the spelling rules.

#### \* 1 Write the comparative forms of the adjectives.

- |            |                |             |       |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| ▶ cheap    | <u>cheaper</u> | 7 difficult | _____ |
| 1 old      | _____          | 8 hard      | _____ |
| 2 hot      | _____          | 9 healthy   | _____ |
| 3 easy     | _____          | 10 thin     | _____ |
| 4 exciting | _____          | 11 bad      | _____ |
| 5 late     | _____          | 12 useful   | _____ |
| 6 good     | _____          |             |       |

#### \* 2 Write the superlative forms of the adjectives.

- |           |                     |            |       |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|-------|
| ▶ clean   | <u>the cleanest</u> | 7 new      | _____ |
| 1 big     | _____               | 8 sad      | _____ |
| 2 lucky   | _____               | 9 bad      | _____ |
| 3 popular | _____               | 10 special | _____ |
| 4 cold    | _____               | 11 fresh   | _____ |
| 5 noisy   | _____               | 12 good    | _____ |
| 6 boring  | _____               |            |       |

### \*3 Match 1–10 with a–j.

- 1 The burger is f
- 2 I think skiing is more \_\_\_\_
- 3 The computer is the most \_\_\_\_
- 4 I bought the \_\_\_\_
- 5 Is China the \_\_\_\_
- 6 Swimming is \_\_\_\_
- 7 It was the happiest day \_\_\_\_
- 8 The President is the most important person \_\_\_\_
- 9 Is America \_\_\_\_
- 10 My phone is more \_\_\_\_

- a better for your health than playing rugby.
- b cheapest T-shirt in the shop.
- c in my country.
- d modern than yours.
- e more expensive than Britain?
- f cheaper than the pizza.
- g of her life.
- h useful invention ever.
- i biggest country in the world?
- j dangerous than riding a horse.

### \*4 24.1 Listen and complete the table with ✓, ✓✓ or ✓✓✓.

	Beth	Dora	Rosy
friendly	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
good at sport			
intelligent			
shy			
popular			

### \*5 24.2 Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets. Listen and check.

- ▶ My room is tidier than my brother's. (tidy)
  - ▶ Isabel has the tidiest desk in the office. (tidy)
- 1 I think this is \_\_\_\_\_ train in the world! (slow)
  - 2 Ed looks \_\_\_\_\_ Oscar. (thin)
  - 3 Football is \_\_\_\_\_ cricket. (exciting)
  - 4 Football is \_\_\_\_\_ sport in the world. (popular)
  - 5 This is \_\_\_\_\_ day of the year. (hot)
  - 6 I think we'll win. That team is \_\_\_\_\_ ours. (bad)

- 7 This is \_\_\_\_\_ village in the whole country. (pretty)
- 8 Mrs Symons is \_\_\_\_\_ teacher in the school. (good)
- 9 Taxis are \_\_\_\_\_ buses. (expensive)
- 10 Biology is \_\_\_\_\_ of all my subjects at school. (interesting)

### \*6 Write the sentences.

- ▶ Jamie – funny – Henry  
Jamie is funnier than Henry.
  - ▶ He – famous person – my town  
He is the most famous person in my town.
- 1 Russia – big – Korea  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 Russia – big country – the world  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 A computer – useful – a phone  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Eiffel Tower – interesting building – Paris  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Your shoes – dirty – mine  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Lucy – good musician – orchestra  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 Monday – bad day – the week  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 Health – important – money  
\_\_\_\_\_

### \*7 Work in pairs. Say an adjective from the box. Your partner uses it in a sentence about someone in his or her family.

confident friendly funny good at sport  
intelligent old tall thin

Funny

My dad is the funniest person in my family.

old

My brother is older than me.

### Not as ... as .../less ... than

We use **not as ... as ...** to make negative comparisons.  
*Egypt isn't as big as China.* (= China is bigger than Egypt.)  
*Tom isn't as tall as Jack.* (= Jack is taller than Tom.)

We can also use **less ... than**.  
*Your room is less tidy than mine.*  
*Playing sport is less important than studying.*

We can also make a negative superlative with **the least**.  
*He was the least helpful assistant in the shop.*

- 8 Look at the information about three computers. Then read the sentences and circle the correct options.

	GX7	AP3	BB9
Price	£499	£479	£525
How old?	3 months	6 months	1 year
How heavy?	0.95 kg	1.06 kg	0.78 kg
How thin?	9 mm	10 mm	8 mm
How fast?	1.33 GHz	1.00 GHz	0.77 GHz
How good?	*****	**	***

- The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as expensive as the GX7.  
 1 The **GX7 / BB9** isn't as old as the AP3.  
 2 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as heavy as the GX7.  
 3 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as thin as the GX7.  
 4 The **GX7 / BB9** isn't as fast as the AP3.  
 5 The **AP3 / GX7** isn't as good as the BB9.  
 6 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as cheap as the GX7.  
 7 The **GX7 / BB9** isn't as new as the AP3.  
 8 The **AP3 / BB9** isn't as light as the GX7.

- 9 **GAME** Work in pairs. Choose a person in the picture, but don't tell your partner. Say two sentences using *not as ... as ...* and adjectives from the box. Can your partner guess the person?

tall short young old thin fat  
 happy sad

This person isn't as tall as Daisy.  
 Charlie isn't as happy as this person.

Is it Bella?

- 10 **24.3** Look again at the people in exercise 9 and listen to the sentences. Write **Yes** if the sentence is correct, and **No** if it is not correct.

- Yes  
 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 \_\_\_\_\_



Andy



Bella



Charlie



Daisy



Ed



Gemma

### \*11 Rewrite the comparisons using *not as ... as ...* or *less ... than*.

- ▶ Angie is more popular than me.  
*I'm not as popular as Angie.*  
*I'm less popular than Angie.*
- 1 Jason is more handsome than Theo.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Supermarkets are more useful than cafés.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Tokyo is noisier than London.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 I'm taller than my teacher.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The chair is more comfortable than the floor.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 She's more beautiful than me.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Pasta is healthier than chips.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Your bag is more expensive than mine.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### \*12 Look at the example. Write eight sentences using *not as ... as ...* and *less ... than* and the words in the table.

basketball	big
football	boring
skiing	dangerous
swimming	difficult
dentists	exciting
footballers	expensive
musicians	hot
nurses	popular
the Arctic	rich
India	useful
Britain	
Egypt	

*Swimming isn't as exciting as basketball.*

*Nurses aren't as rich as footballers.*

*The Arctic is less popular than Egypt.*

## Comparison of adverbs

We make the comparative and superlative of most adverbs by adding **more** and **the most** before the adverb.

*Polly did her homework **more quickly than me**.*

*Kate spoke **the most confidently**.*

Some short adverbs have a comparative form with **-er** and **-est**, like adjectives. For example: **early, fast, hard, late, long, loud**.

*Paul arrived **earlier than me**.*

*The journey took **longer than normal**.*

*Toby ran **the fastest**.*

There are some irregular adverbs:

well	better	the best
badly	worse	the worst
little	less	the least

We can also use **not as ... as ...** with adverbs.

*I **didn't do as well as Jim** in the exam.*

*The book **doesn't explain it as clearly as our teacher**.*

### \*13 24.4 Write the words in the correct order.

Listen and check.

- ▶ gets up/his brother/Henry/than/later

*Henry gets up later than his brother.*

- 1 swims/me/than/Emily/better  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 harder/her friends/works/than/Cathy  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 drive/carefully/You/more/should  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 more loudly/everyone else/Ryan/than/is talking  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 He/his parents/eats/than/healthily/more  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 than/my brother/less/earn/I  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 the bus/more slowly/this train/than/is going  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 you/please/more/speak/Could/clearly  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**14** Complete the sentences with the correct comparative or superlative form of the adverb in brackets.

- ▶ She spoke more quietly than me. (quietly)
- ▶ I did the best in the whole school. (well)
- 1 We arrived \_\_\_\_\_ than everyone else. (late)
- 2 Jack didn't play as \_\_\_\_\_ as Tom. (well)
- 3 They've lived here \_\_\_\_\_ than us. (long)
- 4 Kim studies \_\_\_\_\_ in the whole class. (hard)
- 5 It's impossible to live \_\_\_\_\_. (cheaply)
- 6 The match doesn't start as \_\_\_\_\_ as usual. (early)
- 7 You should read the letter \_\_\_\_\_. (carefully)
- 8 Fred and Alex are lazy, but Pete works \_\_\_\_\_ of all. (little)
- 9 Eat \_\_\_\_\_, or you'll feel sick. (slowly)
- 10 No one in the band is very good but he definitely sings \_\_\_\_\_. (badly)

**15** **GAME** Student A mimes an action. Student B guesses the action. Then student A chooses an adverb and mimes the action and the adverb. Student B guesses the adverb.

You're playing the guitar.

Yes.

Now you're playing it faster!

climb the stairs  
eat some chips  
make coffee  
play the guitar  
send a text message  
sit down  
walk  
write a letter

angrily  
badly  
carefully  
fast  
slowly  
strangely

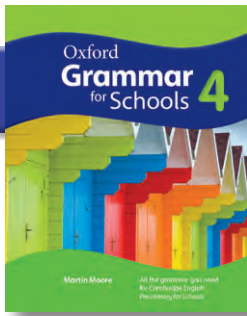


**16** Correct the mistakes.

- ▶ That was **the boringest** film I've ever seen.  
the most boring
- 1 Your computer is **faster of** mine.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Beth is **the more wonderful** person I know.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Vicky has got **more longer hair than** me.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 That was one of **the sadest moments of** my life.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 William isn't **as clever than** he thinks.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Leo can run **more fastly than** anyone else.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Who is **most popular person in** your class?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Some footballers are **famouser than** musicians.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 The Taj Mahal is perhaps **the most beautiful building of** the world.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 You need to listen **more careful**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11 That is **the dirtier** car I've ever seen.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12 This week's test was **more difficult that** I expected.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Self-evaluation** Rate your progress.

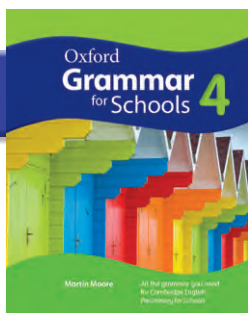
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### Comparison: adjectives and adverbs Answer key

- 1** 1 older 2 hotter 3 easier 4 more exciting 5 later 6 better
- 2** 1 the biggest 2 the luckiest 3 the most popular 4 the coldest 5 the noisiest 6 the most boring
- 3** 1 f 2 j 3 h 4 b 5 i 6 a 7 g 8 c 9 e 10 d
- 4**
- |               | Beth | Dora | Rosy |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| good at sport | ✓    | ✓✓✓  | ✓✓   |
| intelligent   | ✓✓   | ✓    | ✓✓✓  |
| shy           | ✓    | ✓✓   | ✓✓✓  |
| popular       | ✓✓   | ✓✓✓  | ✓    |
- 5** 1 the slowest 2 thinner than 3 more exciting than 4 the most popular 5 the hottest
- 6** 1 Russia is bigger than Korea. 2 Russia is the biggest country in the world. 3 A computer is more useful than a phone. 4 The Eiffel Tower is the most interesting building in Paris. 5 Your shoes are dirtier than mine. 6 Lucy is the best musician in the orchestra. 7 Monday is the worst day of the week. 8 Health is more important than money.
- 8** 1 GX7 2 BB9 3 AP3 4 BB9 5 AP3 6 BB9 7 BB9 8 AP3

- 10** 1 No 2 Yes 3 Yes 4 No 5 No
- 11** 1 Theo is not as handsome as Jason. Theo is less handsome than Jason. 2 Cafés are not as useful as supermarkets. Cafés are less useful than supermarkets. 3 London is not as noisy as Tokyo. London is less noisy than Tokyo. 4 My teacher is not as tall as me. My teacher is less tall than me. 5 The floor isn't as comfortable as the chair. The floor is less comfortable than the chair. 6 I'm not as beautiful as her. I'm less beautiful than her. 7 Chips are not as healthy as pasta. Chips are less healthy than pasta. 8 My bag is not as expensive as yours. My bag is less expensive than yours.
- 13** 1 Emily swims better than me. 2 Cathy works harder than her friends. 3 You should drive more carefully. 4 Ryan is talking more loudly than everyone else. 5 He eats more healthily than his parents. 6 I earn less than my brother. 7 This train is going more slowly than the bus. 8 Could you speak more clearly, please?
- 14** 1 later 2 well 3 longer 4 the hardest 5 more cheaply 6 early 7 more carefully 8 the least 9 more slowly 10 the worst
- 16** 1 faster than 2 the most wonderful 3 longer hair than 4 the saddest moments of 5 as clever as 6 faster than 7 the most popular person in 8 more famous than 9 the most beautiful building in 10 more carefully 11 the dirtiest 12 more difficult than



## Comparison: adjectives and adverbs: Audioscript

### ▶ 24.1

- ▶ Dora is friendlier than Rosy, but Beth is the friendliest of all.
- 1 Rosy is better at sport than Beth, but Dora is the best of all.
- 2 Rosy is the most intelligent. Beth is more intelligent than Dora.
- 3 Dora is shyer than Beth, but Rosy is the shyest of all.
- 4 Dora is the most popular. Beth is more popular than Rosy.

### ▶ 24.2

- ▶ My room is tidier than my brother's.
- ▶ Isabel has the tidiest desk in the office.
- 1 I think this is the slowest train in the world!
- 2 Ed looks thinner than Oscar.
- 3 Football is more exciting than cricket.
- 4 Football is the most popular sport in the world.
- 5 This is the hottest day of the year.
- 6 I think we'll win. That team is worse than ours.
- 7 This is the prettiest village in the whole country.
- 8 Mrs Symons is the best teacher in the school.
- 9 Taxis are more expensive than buses.
- 10 Biology is the most interesting of all my subjects at school.

### ▶ 24.3

- ▶ Daisy isn't as old as Ed.
- 1 Gemma isn't as happy as Charlie.
- 2 Daisy isn't as short as Gemma.
- 3 Ed isn't as tall as Daisy.
- 4 Charlie isn't as fat as Andy.
- 5 Daisy isn't as young as Bella.

### ▶ 24.4

- ▶ Henry gets up later than his brother.
- 1 Emily swims better than me.
- 2 Cathy works harder than her friends.
- 3 You should drive more carefully.
- 4 Ryan is talking more loudly than everyone else.
- 5 He eats more healthily than his parents.
- 6 I earn less than my brother.
- 7 This train is going more slowly than the bus.
- 8 Could you speak more clearly, please?