



ENGLISH ASTIR
STEPPINGSTONE TO 7.0

Language focus Thrill Seekers Comparison



1 Look at the following extracts from a reading passage.

a ... *Miami Trip, a gentler ride designed to explore pleasure.*

b ... *the thrill lab will help design more immersive rides and games ...*

Identify the comparative adjectives in the two sentences then answer the question below.

1 What is added to the adjective to make a comparison in a? Can more be used instead? Why/Why not?

2 How is the comparative formed in b? Can it be formed by adding an ending to the adjective instead? Why/Why not?





Read more about comparison in the Grammar reference

Comparison

A Comparative adjectives

1 One syllable adjectives

You form the comparative from adjectives with one syllable by adding **-er**.

high – higher

For one-syllable adjectives ending in **-e**, you add **-r**.

large – larger

For one-syllable adjectives ending in a consonant, you double the final consonant.

big – bigger

2 Two or more syllable adjectives

You normally form the comparative from adjectives with two or more syllables with **more/less**.

exciting – more/less exciting.

3 Adjectives ending in consonant + **-y**

You form the comparative from adjectives ending in consonant + **y**, by changing **-y** to **-i**

dry – drier

easy – easier

Note some adjectives can be formed with **-er** or **more/less**.

The river is shallower/more shallow here than over there.

Theme parks with thrilling rides are becoming commoner/more common than in the past.

B Superlative adjectives

1 One syllable adjectives

You form the superlative from adjectives with one syllable by using **the** before the adjective and adding **-(e)st** to the adjective.

long – the longest

2 Two or more syllable adjectives

You form the superlative from adjectives with two or more syllables by adding **the most/least** before the adjective.

interesting – the most/least interesting

3 Adjectives ending in consonant + **-y**

You form the superlative from adjectives ending in consonant + **y**, by changing **-y** to **-i**.

dry – driest

easy – the easiest



C Irregular comparatives and superlatives

Some common adjectives have an irregular comparative and superlative form.

good – better – the best

bad – worse – the worst

far – farther/further – the farthest/the furthest

*She is a **better** player than he is.*

*The performance of the team was **worse** than last time.*

D Comparative adverbs

Like comparative adjectives, you form comparative adverbs by adding **-(e)r** to one syllable adverbs and using **more/less** with two or more syllable adverbs.

*Computer sales rose **faster** over the last decade compared to the previous one.*

*Attendances at the cinema fell **more dramatically** in the first quarter than the second.*

E Comparative structures

1 **than**

You can make comparisons by using **than**.

*Sales were greater in 1980 **than** in 1990.*

2 **as + adjective + as** to compare two equal things.

You can compare two equal things by using **as + adjective + as**.

*I'm **as tall as** my sister.*

3 **not as + adjective + as** to compare two things that are not equal.

You can compare two things that are not equal by using **not as + adjective + as**.

*Computer sales weren't **as high** in June **as** they were in January.*

F Words to strengthen or weaken comparisons

You can add words and expressions to strengthen or weaken comparisons.

1 Comparatives

Words and expressions that can be added to comparatives include: **a bit, a little, slightly, much, (quite) a lot, far, significantly, considerably, a great deal, twice, three times.**

*Book sales rose **much/a lot/far more slowly** in the last quarter.*

*The number of shoppers was **a little lower** last month compared to this month.*

2 Superlatives

Words and expressions that can be added to superlatives include: **by far, easily, a long way.**

*The Indian architect's building was **by far the most popular** in the competition.*

*Sweden is the company's **smallest** market, **by a long way**.*

3 With **as ... as ...**

Words and expressions that can be added to modify the structure **as ... as ...** include: **(not) nearly, not quite, almost, just, half, twice, three times.**

*The population of the town **is three times as big as** it was in 1960.*

*The rest of the team were **not nearly as good as** the captain.*

2 Complete the table below.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
		the worst
	better	
noisy		
wet		
tasty		
cheap		
lively		
appetising		

3 For 1-8 below, put the word in brackets into the correct comparative or superlative form.

1 People who do some physical activity are supposed to be (happy) than less active people.

2 It's much (easy) to find place to do specialist sports outside cities and towns.

3 With more people taking it up, professional bowling is far (popular) than it used to be.

4 Which sport do you think is (energetic) of all?

5 It is becoming (difficult) for people to organize their lives around work nowadays.

6 Is work the (stressful) aspect of modern life?

7 Is mental activity (important) than physical activity?

8 People don't realize that racing drivers are (fit) individuals in sport.



4 Work with your teacher. Look at sentences **1-8** in exercise 3. Decide what the noun form of each adjective is. Then decide which nouns can be used with these verbs.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

have

need/require

enjoy

experience

5 Rewrite sentences **1-8** in exercise **3** using a noun instead of an adjective. You may need to use the verbs above and make any necessary changes.

Example:

People who do some physical activity are supposed to enjoy/have greater happiness than less active people.

1

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7

8

6 The questionnaire below contains some mistakes. Rewrite the questions that are incorrect.

Do you agree that ...

- 1** football is exciting than swimming?
- 2** athletics is the most boring activity to watch on TV?
- 3** sports like sky-diving are dangerouser than hiking?
- 4** you need to be fiter to go cycling than walking?
- 5** table tennis is not most exciting sport in the world?
- 6** people are lazier now than they were in the past?
- 7** rowing is a sport only for fittest people?
- 8** tennis is more exhilarating than skiing?
- 9** watching sport on TV or the internet is less exciting than seeing it live?
- 10** racket sports like squash and tennis are tiring than many other sports?

1

7

2

8

3

9

4

10

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6

7 With your teacher. Use the questionnaire to interview each other. Ask for reasons and examples. If you agree with a statement, put a check mark next to the question.



Review

1

Put the adjectives in brackets into the correct comparative or superlative form.

1 Is your neighbourhood usually (lively) than this?
No, it's (dull) area in town.

2 The park is (quiet) for running in the morning compared to the afternoon.
I agree. It's much (noise) after the schools finish.

3 She's (energetic) student on the sports field.
Yet she used to be (lazy) than everyone else.

4 Cycling is (difficult) sport of all.
No. I think it's much (easy) than long-distance running.

2

Choose an appropriate ending to complete sentences 1-6.

fitter sadder expensive important more happy
popular better popularer

- 1 As people seek more adventure, extreme sports are now definitely more ...
- 2 Of all benefits from participating in any kind of sport, fitness is the most ...
- 3 Walking is as good as any sporting activity if people want to be ...
- 4 If we compare indoor and outdoor sports, I think the latter is much ...
- 5 Even with the stresses of modern life, do you think people are happier or ...
- 6 Do you think out of all sports motor racing is perhaps the most ...