**CONSTRUCTIONS WITH COMPARISONS**

1. **‘as ... as’** to indicate **the same degree**

as ... as is used in the affirmative sentences to show that two people, things, etc. are similar:

* **Jane is as tall as/as intelligent as Peter.**

2. **‘not as ... as’** to indicate **lower degree**

These constructions are used in the **negative sentences**:

* **Soames is not as/not so suitable for the job as me/as I am.**
* **Your coffee is not as/so good as the coffee my mother makes.**

not such a/an (+ adjective) + noun is also possible:

* **He’s not such a hard worker as his brother.**

3. **‘than’** after the comparative

* **Jane is taller than Peter.**



* **Jane is more intelligent than Peter.**

If two things of exactly the same kind are being compared, we can use **the**  before a comparative **in formal style**:

* **Which is (the) longer (of the two coats)?**
* **The grey coat is (the) longer (of the two coats).**

However, if we need to mention each item, then we must use **than** after the comparative.

* **He makes fewer mistakes than you (do).**
* **I know him better than you.**
* **He is stronger than I expected. (= I didn’t expect him to be so strong.)**

4. **‘more than’, ‘less than’** and **‘worse than’ + adjective**

‘More than’, ‘less than’ and ‘worse than’ can be used in front of a number of adjectives in the following way:

* **I was more than pleased with my pay rise.**

5. Comparatives with ‘**-er** and **-er’**

Gradual increase or decrease is expressed by two comparatives (adjectives or adverbs) joined by and:

* **The weather is getting colder and colder.**
* **He became less and less interested.**

6. ‘**the**’ + comparative ... ‘**the**’ + comparative

Parallel increase is expressed by the + comparative ... the + comparative:

* **The more money you make, the more you spend**.

 7. Comparisons with ‘**like**’ and ‘**alike**’

* **Tom is very like Bill.**
* **Bill and Tom are very alike.**

Comparison of three or more people/things is expressed by the superlative with **the ... in/of:**

* **This is the oldest theatre in London.**
* **The youngest of the family was the most successful.**

**Degrees of similarity**

Degrees of similarity can be expressed by means of **almost, exactly, just, nearly + as +adjective:**

* **Jeffrey is nearly as tall as his father now**.

Almost, exactly, just, nearly and (not) quite will combine with the same:

* **Those two boys are exactly the same**.

Completely, entirely and quite will combine with different:

* **Those two boys are completely different.**

Modification of comparatives and superlatives

The positive of both adjectives and adverbs can themselves be premodified by amplifying intensifiers and adverbs of degree like **very, too** and **quite**: very tall, too cold, quite hot, etc.

However, **we cannot** use these intensifiers **with the comparative**. We must use **a bit, (very)**

**much, far, even, hardly any, a lot, lots, a little, no, rather, somewhat, etc.:**

* **Houses are much/far/a lot more expensive these days.**

The inflectional superlative may be premodified by **very**: the very best

Comparatives and superlatives can also be postmodified by intensifying phrases, the most common of which is **by far**, e.g.: He is funnier/funniest by far.

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