

# **Lesson 12. Comparative Expressions**

# Lesson 12. Comparative Expressions

## Learning Objectives

**After this lesson, students will be able to:**

- Identify other ways to compare nouns, pronouns, verbs...etc
- Understand how each comparative expression is formed.
- Determine the correct forms of comparatives to complete sentences.
- Make own sentences using comparative expressions covered in the lesson properly.

# Lesson 12. Comparative Expressions

At times, we make comparison with things that share one specific feature. In such case there are specific expressions that are to be used instead of the common comparative forms of adjectives that had been discussed in a lesson.

## 1 ***as ... as***

We use *as + adjective/adverb + as* to make comparisons when the things we are comparing are equal in some way:

*The world's biggest bull is **as big as** a small elephant.*

*The weather this summer is **as bad as** last year. It hasn't stopped raining for weeks.*

*You have to unwrap it **as carefully as** you can. It's quite fragile.*

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When we compare equal qualities of two people, places or things, we use the comparative structure as + adjective + as.

➔ *I like them both. Benji is as playful as Cody.*

The speaker uses the adjective “playful” to express the equal quality of the two animals.

The sentence structure goes like this: subject + BE verb + as + adjective + as...followed by a noun or noun **phrase**.

subject	verb	as adjective as	noun or noun phrase
Benji	is	as playful as	Cody.
subject	verb	as adverb as	noun or noun phrase
Benji	runs	as fast as	Cody.

VOA

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## ② *as ... as + possibility*

We often use expressions of possibility or ability after *as ... as*:

- ➔ *Can you come **as soon as possible**?*
- ➔ *Go to **as many places as you can**.*
- ➔ *We got here **as fast as we could**.*

### Answer the following questions:

1. *What is something that you had to accomplish **as soon as possible**?*
2. *If you could go to **as many places as you can**, what are the first five destinations you'd head to?*
3. *Talk about a time when you had to prepare for something **as fast as you could**? Explain why you had to rush.*

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## 3 *not as ... as*

We use *not as ... as* to make comparisons between things which aren't equal:

- ➔ *It's **not as heavy as** I thought it would be, actually.*
- ➔ *Rory hasn't grown **as tall as** Tommy yet.*
- ➔ *She's **not singing as loudly as** she can.*
- ➔ *They didn't play **as well as** they usually do.*

We can modify *not as ... as* by using *not quite as* or *not nearly as*:

*The second race was **not quite as easy as** the first one.* (The second race was easy but the first one was easier.)

*These new shoes are **not nearly as comfortable as** my old ones.* (My old shoes are a lot more comfortable than these new shoes.)

We can also use *not so ... as*. *Not so ... as* is less common than *not as ... as*:

- ➔ *The cycling was good but **not so hard as** the cross country skiing we did.*

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But, what if one of the dogs runs faster than the other dog? Or, what if you did not enjoy the two dishes equally? How could you use express these ideas using the “as” structure?

To express unequal comparisons between actions, the auxiliary verb “do” is needed. The negative form would be “do not” “does not” or the past tense “did not.”

Take note of where these words appear in this example:

➡ *We did not enjoy the pasta dish as much as the rice dish.*

Notice that the negative “did not” appears immediately after the subject “We.”

In the real world, a native English speaker would likely use a **contraction**, such as “didn’t,” rather than “did not,” like this:

➡ *We did not enjoy the pasta dish as much as the rice dish.*

Now, let’s hear the negative form about the dogs.

➡ *Benji does not run as fast as Cody.*

Notice the negative “does not” comes after the subject “Benji.” Again, a native speaker would be likely to use the contraction “doesn’t” in this example.

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Rewrite the following sentences using the cue and proper structure or inverted sentences.

1. The clothes shop is [ ] the computer shop. (interesting/negative)
2. Jake is [ ] Sue after seeing the result of the test. (happy/negative)
3. The tomato soup was [ ] the mushroom soup. (savory/positive)
4. The Beefeaters are [ ] the guards at Buckingham Palace.  
(funny/negative)
5. Pete's present is [ ] John's but Jen loved it more. (pricey/negative)
6. In my humble opinion, London is [ ] a classroom. (boring/positive)
7. This project is [ ] the former. Are you this has been revised?  
(bad/positive)
8. Silver is [ ] gold, hence the latter is more expensive.  
(heavy/negative)



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## 4 *as much as, as many as*

When we want to make comparisons referring to quantity, we use *as much as* with uncountable nouns and *as many as* with plural nouns:

- ➔ *Greg makes **as much money as** Mick but **not as much as** Neil.*
- ➔ *They try to give them **as much freedom as** they can.*
- ➔ *There weren't **as many people there as** I expected.*

We can use *as much as* and *as many as* before a number to refer to a large number of something:

- ➔ *Scientists have discovered a planet which weighs **as much as 2,500** times the weight of Earth.*
- ➔ *There were **as many as 50** people crowded into the tiny room.*

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**Identify the incorrect sentences in the following. Modify the incorrect sentences.**

1. Rick could have beaten us by as many as he wanted.
2. I only ask that you do as many good for as many people for as long as you can.
3. It's difficult to see as many as in a sentence.
4. Soils containing less than 25% of potash are likely to need special application of potash fertilizers to give good results, while those containing as much as.
5. Filipinos will again choose as much as 30 officials in 1998.
6. I don't think she knew they were working as many against her as with her.
7. Each box holds enough for as many as a dozen grillings.
8. She didn't expect it to bother her as much as it did.
9. Rohlf has printed as many as 500 signs in a day.
10. The guy is 73 and down as many as 17 points.
11. As much as 50 million Americans get the flu every year.
12. I felt a sickness in my stomach at the news, in spite of having surmised as much.

# Lesson 12. Comparative Expressions

Make at least 5 sentences for comparative expression.

as...as

- 5 sentences

as...as  
possibilities

- 5 sentences
- 5 sentences

not as...as

- 5 sentences

as many  
as much

- 5 sentences

**The End**