

6.1 Making comparisons

1 We use **comparative adjectives** + *than* to compare people and things with other people and things.

1 This classroom is **quieter than** the one near reception.

2 The weather is **nicer** today **than** yesterday.

2 We use *the* + **superlative adjectives** to compare people and things with a whole group.

1 This is **the quietest** classroom in the whole school.

2 This is **the nicest** day so far this year.

3 We use *than*, not *that*, to compare. We use an **object pronoun** after *than*.

1 She is taller **than him**.

6.1 Making comparisons

1 Look at the **spelling rules** for forming the **comparative** and **superlative**. Most **one-syllable** adjectives form the comparative with *-er*, and the **superlative** with *-est*. We use *more* or *the most* with **longer adjectives**.

| Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| one syllable ending -e | stranger | the strangest |
| one syllable, ending in one vowel + one consonant | thinner | the thinnest |
| one syllable | higher | the highest |
| one or two syllables ending -y | tidier | the tidiest |
| two syllables or more | more sociable more introverted | the most sociable the most introverted |

6.1 Making comparisons

1 There are some **exceptions** to the spelling rules.

bored – **more** bored – **the most** bored

2 There are also **irregular** adjectives. Do you know them?

| Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| good | better | the best |
| bad | worse | the worst |
| far | farther/further | the farthest/the furthest |

6.1 Making comparisons

1 The **opposite** of *more* is *less*. The **opposite** of *the most* is *the least*. We use *less/the least* with **short** and **long** adjectives.

A This film is **more** frightening than the one we saw yesterday.

B Do you think so? I think it's **less** frightening. In fact, I think it's **the least** scary horror film I've ever seen!







2 We use *(just) as ... as* to say that people and things are **equal** in some way and we use *not as ... as* to say they are **not equal**.

1 The twins are **(just) as** sociable **as** each other. (They are **equally** sociable.)

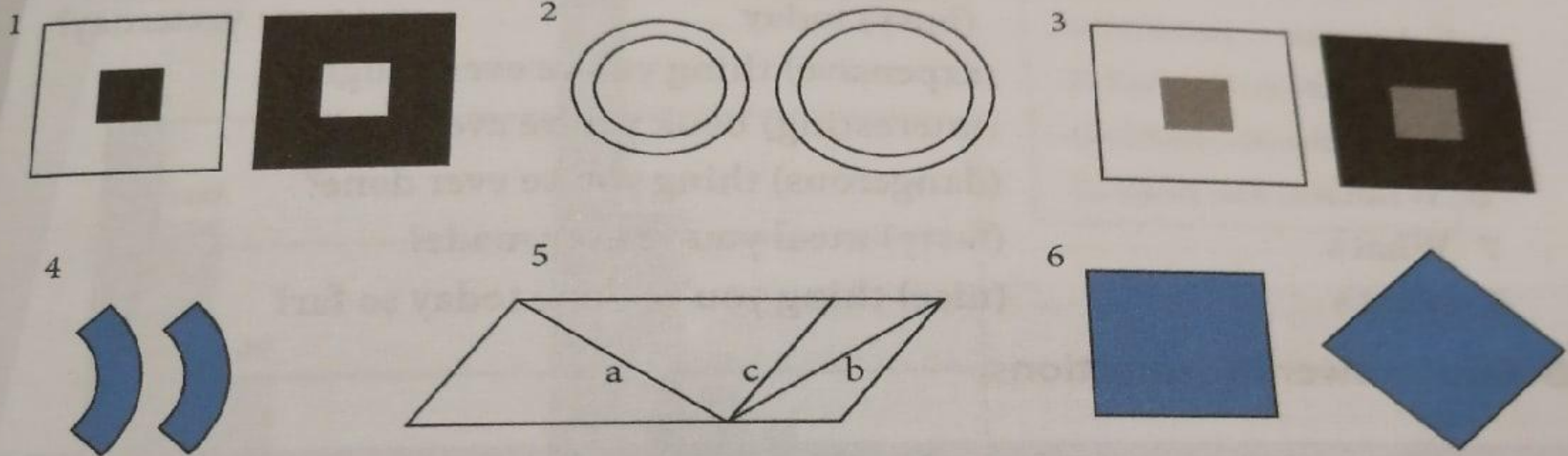
2 My sisters are **not as** untidy **as** my brother. (My sisters are tid**ier**.)

6.1 Making comparisons

1 Match the sentence halves in each pair so the meaning is the same.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 She is quieter than him. |  | a She is more talkative than him. |
| 2 She is less quiet than him. |  | b He is not as quiet as her. |
| 3 Introverts are as happy as extroverts. |  | a Extroverts are just as happy as introverts. |
| 4 Introverts are happier than extroverts. |  | b Extroverts are not as happy as introverts. |
| 5 You are the most impatient person I know. |  | a I don't know anyone more patient than you. |
| 6 You are the most patient person I know. |  | b You are the least patient person I know. |

1 Fill in each gap with the correct form of the adjective in brackets. Use the comparative and superlative forms and (not) as ... as ...



- 1 The small black square on the left seems smaller (small) than the small white square on the right.
- 2 The inner circle on the right appears to be larger (big) than the outer circle on the left.
- 3 The small grey square on the left looks lighter (dark) than the small grey square on the right.
- 4 The shape on the right doesn't seem as big (big) the shape on the left.
- 5 Line a is the longest (long) of the three lines.
- 6 The square on the right seems larger (large) than the square on the left.

shape on the left.

5 Line a is the (long) of the three lines.

6 The square on the right seems (large) than the square on the left.

2 Fill in each gap using information from the table and the comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

| Company | Destination | Price | Hotel | Journey time | Extras |
|-------------|-------------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------------|
| Travelfirst | Paris | £256 | ★★★ | 2 hrs 20 | breakfast included |
| Eurospeed | Prague | £309 | ★★★★ | 3 hrs 15 | breakfast included |
| Rooms4U | Edinburgh | £159 | ★★★ | 1 hr 50 | |

We wanted to take a short city break in Europe so we searched on the Internet for some of (1) the best (good) offers. The trip to Edinburgh was (2) (cheap) but we had already been to Edinburgh several times so we decided not to go there. The journey to Paris was (3) (short) than the journey to Prague but the (4) (high) quality hotel was in Prague. The overall cost of the trip to Prague was (5) (expensive). Prague is (6) (far) away than Paris but the trip seemed to be (7) (good) value.

3a You're signing up to a social networking site. You're asked some questions about yourself. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the adjective in brackets and any other missing words.

- 1 Do you have any (old) brothers or sisters?
- 2 Are you (happy) now when you were
..... (young)?
- 3 Are you (busy) today you were yesterday?
- 4 What's (expensive) thing you've ever bought?
- 5 What's (interesting) book you've ever read?
- 6 What's (dangerous) thing you've ever done?
- 7 What's (tasty) meal you've ever made?
- 8 What's (nice) thing you've done today so far?

3b Now answer the questions.

4 Match 1-6 with an appropriate following sentence a-f. Complete the sentences with the comparative form of an adverb from the box.

far badly slowly hard well ~~early~~

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 I was late for the meeting. | a He couldn't have done |
| 2 I didn't do very well in my exams. | b I should have got up <i>earlier</i> |
| 3 You got a speeding ticket? | c You're playing much |
| 4 He got the slowest time in the race. | d You should have driven |
| 5 You've really improved. | e I can't walk any |
| 6 I'm so tired. | f I should have worked |

5 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 1 My oldest sister plays tennis better that me, but I can run more fast.
- 2 In my family, my son gets up the most early.
- 3 My younger brother cooks the worse of all of us. He's a terrible cook!
- 4 In the evenings my daughter arrives home more lately than her brother.
- 5 He speaks Spanish more fluent as Italian.