### COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

**8.1 Comparative Adjectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparative Adjective</th>
<th>Than</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The blue car is newer</td>
<td>than the gray car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more expensive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Use a comparative adjective + than to compare two people, places, or things.
   - Lydia is taller than Alex. Gorillas are more intelligent than cows. The bigger house is mine. The more interesting shows are on cable TV.
2. Add -er to the end of most one-syllable adjectives to form the comparative. If the adjective ends in -e, add -r.
   - small → smaller
   - large → larger
   - low → lower
   - nice → nicer
3. Use more before most long adjectives (adjectives that have two or more syllables).
   - Jack is more serious than Nikki. Do you think math is more important than music?
4. Some two-syllable adjectives are used with either -er or more to form the comparative.
   - quiet → quieter / more quiet
   - simple → simpler / more simple
5. Some adjectives have an irregular comparative form.
   - good → better
   - bad → worse
   - far → farther, further

**8.2 Comparative Adverbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparative Adverb</th>
<th>Than</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gas prices are rising</td>
<td>faster than food prices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more rapidly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Use a comparative adverb + than to compare two actions.
   - Mark works harder than Jeff. Carol drives more carefully than Peter.
2. Add -er to the end of one-syllable adverbs to form the comparative.
   - fast → faster
   - long → longer
   - hard → harder
   - high → higher
3. Use more before adverbs that end with -ly.
   - quickly → more quickly
   - frequently → more frequently
4. Some adverbs have an irregular comparative form.
   - well → better
   - badly → worse
   - far → farther, further
8.3 Completing Comparisons

1. You can use an object pronoun to complete a comparison. But in more formal speaking and writing, use a subject pronoun + an auxiliary verb.

   Ed is six feet tall. Bob is taller than him.
   Ed is six feet tall. Bob is taller than he is.

2. Use an auxiliary verb after than. Do not repeat the main verb.

   ✓ Ana runs faster than Pat does.
   ✗ Ana runs faster than Pat runs.

3. A possessive noun or possessive pronoun can be used after than.

   My car was more expensive than Ellen’s.
   My car was more expensive than hers.

4. If the comparison is clear, than and the second part of the comparison are not necessary.

   Nowadays, smart phones are cheaper.

5. Be careful! Use than, not then, in a comparison.

   ✓ I work harder than I used to.
   ✗ I work harder than I used to.

8.4 Comparisons with As . . . As

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As</th>
<th>As</th>
<th>As</th>
<th>As</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My car is</td>
<td>as</td>
<td>Adjective</td>
<td>as your car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>big comfortable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I drive</td>
<td>as</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
<td>as you do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>well carefully</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Use as + adjective/adverb + as to compare two people, places, or things that are the same or equal in some way.

2. To complete a comparison with as . . . as, you can use:
   a. a noun (+ verb)
   b. a subject pronoun + verb or an auxiliary verb
   c. a possessive noun or possessive pronoun

3. In informal speaking, object pronouns are often used to complete comparisons with as . . . as.

Adjective: Your car is as old as mine.
Adverbs: I can run a mile as fast as you can.

Format: He’s as tall as I am.
Informal: He’s as tall as me.

8.5 Comparison with Less and Not As . . . As

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less + Adjective or Adverb + Than</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This phone is less expensive than that one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This old fan works less efficiently than the new fan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not As + Adjective or Adverb + As</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This phone is not as expensive as good as that one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This old fan does not work as efficiently as well as the new fan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The opposite of more is less. Not as . . . as and less have the same meaning.

   My old car was less efficient than my new car.
   My old car was not as efficient as my new car.

2. Use not as . . . as with one-syllable adjectives or adverbs.

   My apartment is not as big as yours.
   Tom doesn’t run as fast as Steven.

3. Use less . . . than or not as . . . as with adjectives or adverbs that have two or more syllables. The meaning is the same.

   My son visits less frequently than my daughter.
   My son doesn’t visit as frequently as my daughter.

4. Remember: If the comparison is clear, the second part of the comparison is not necessary.

   The food at Joe’s cafe isn’t as good as the food at Chez Claude, but it’s less expensive.
   The food at Joe’s cafe is less expensive than the food at Chez Claude, but it isn’t as good.
### 8.6 Superlative Adjectives and Adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Superlative Adjective</th>
<th>The red car is</th>
<th>the nicest</th>
<th>the most expensive</th>
<th>car in the parking lot.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superlative Adverb</td>
<td>She runs</td>
<td>the fastest</td>
<td>the most slowly</td>
<td>of all the players on the team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Use a superlative adjective to compare three or more people, places, or things.
   - Ali is the tallest student in our class.
   - Prague is the most beautiful city I’ve ever seen.
   - What’s the most interesting book you’ve ever read?

2. Use a superlative adverb to compare the action of three or more people or things.
   - Of all my friends, Alicia calls the most frequently.
   - My red shoes fit the most comfortably of all my shoes.

3. Add -est to the end of most one-syllable adjectives or adverbs to form the superlative. Use the before superlative adjectives. It is not as common before adverbs.
   - Adjective: I bought the longest couch in the store.
   - Adverb: Steve works hardest of all the students.

4. Use the most before most adjectives that have two or more syllables and adverbs ending in -ly.
   - Maria is the most careful climber of the group.
   - The Grand Canyon is the most amazing sight I’ve ever seen.
   - Of all the girls, Brenda sings the most beautifully.

5. For some two-syllable adjectives and adverbs, either -est or the most can be used to form the superlative.
   - stupid —> the stupidest/the most stupid
   - cruel —> the cruellest/the most cruel

6. Some superlatives are irregular.
   - good/well —> the best
   - bad/badly —> the worst

### 8.7 More on Superlative Adjectives and Adverbs

1. The opposite of the most is the least.
   - This is the least expensive phone in the store. All the other phones cost a lot more.
   - She drives the least carefully of all my friends. All my other friends drive much more carefully.

2. A prepositional phrase with in or of is often used to complete a superlative.
   - The Nile is the longest river in the world.
   - This hat is the prettiest of the three.

3. Remember: If the comparison is clear, it is not necessary to complete it.
   - This sentence is the longest.
   - She won because she ran the fastest.

4. One of the often comes before a superlative adjective. The superlative adjective is followed by a plural noun.
   - China is one of the biggest countries in the world.