

Comparative 2 (much better / any better etc.)

A much / a lot etc. + comparative

Before comparatives you can use:

much **a lot** **far** (= a lot) **a bit** **a little** **slightly** (= a little)

- ☐ I felt ill earlier, but I feel **much better** now. (or **a lot better**)
- ☐ Don't go by train. It's **a lot more expensive**. (or **much more expensive**)
- ☐ Could you speak **a bit more slowly**? (or **a little more slowly**)
- ☐ This bag is **slightly heavier** than the other one.
- ☐ The problem is **far more serious** than we thought at first.

B any / no + comparative

You can use **any** and **no** + comparative (**any longer** / **no bigger** etc.):

- ☐ I've waited long enough. I'm not waiting **any longer**. (= not even a little longer)
- ☐ We expected their apartment to be very big, but it's **no bigger** than ours.
or ... it **isn't any bigger** than ours. (= not even a little bigger)
- ☐ How do you feel now? Do you feel **any better**?
- ☐ This hotel is better than the other one, and it's **no more expensive**.

C better and better, more and more etc.

We repeat comparatives (**better and better** etc.) to say that something changes continuously:

- ☐ Your English is improving. It's getting **better and better**.
- ☐ The city has grown fast in recent years. It's got **bigger and bigger**.
- ☐ As I listened to his story, I became **more and more convinced** that he was lying.
- ☐ **More and more tourists** are visiting this part of the country.

D the ... the ...

You can say **the sooner the better**, **the more the better** etc.:

- ☐ A: What time shall we leave?
B: **The sooner the better**. (= as soon as possible)
- ☐ A: What sort of bag do you want? A big one?
B: Yes, **the bigger the better**. (= as big as possible)
- ☐ When you're travelling, **the less luggage** you have **the better**.

We also use **the ... the ...** to say that one thing depends on another thing:

- ☐ **The sooner** we leave, **the earlier** we'll arrive. (= if we leave sooner, we'll arrive earlier)
- ☐ **The younger** you are, **the easier** it is to learn.
- ☐ **The more expensive** the hotel, **the better** the service.
- ☐ **The more** I thought about the plan, **the less** I liked it.

E older and elder

The comparative of **old** is **older**:

- ☐ David looks **older** than he really is. (not looks elder)

We use **elder** only when we talk about people in a family (**my elder sister**, **their elder son** etc.).

You can also use **older**:

- ☐ **My elder sister** is a TV producer. (or My **older** sister ...)

But we do not say that 'somebody is elder':

- ☐ My sister is **older** than me. (not elder than me)

Exercises

106.1 Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences. Use **much** / **a bit** etc. + a comparative form. Use **than** where necessary.

- The problem is much more serious than we thought at first. (much / serious)
- This bag is too small. I need something (much / big)
- I liked the museum. It was I expected. (a lot / interesting)
- It was very hot yesterday. Today it's (a little / cool)
- I'm afraid the problem is it seems. (far / complicated)
- You're driving too fast. Can you drive? (a bit / slowly)
- I thought he was younger than me, but in fact he's (slightly / old)

106.2 Complete the sentences using **any/no** + comparative. Use **than** where necessary.

- I've waited long enough. I'm not waiting any longer
- I'm sorry I'm a bit late, but I couldn't get here
- This shop isn't expensive. The prices are anywhere else.
- I need to stop for a rest. I can't walk
- The traffic isn't especially bad today. It's usual.

106.3 Complete the sentences using **... and ...** (see Section C).

- It's getting more and more difficult to find a job. (difficult)
- That hole in your sweater is getting (big)
- I waited for my interview and became (nervous)
- As the day went on, the weather got (bad)
- Health care is becoming (expensive)
- Since Anna went to Canada, her English has got (good)
- These days I travel a lot. I'm spending away from home. (time)

106.4 Complete the sentences using **the ... the ...**.

- You learn things more easily when you're young.
The younger you are, the easier it is to learn.
- It's hard to concentrate when you're tired.
The more tired you are, the
- We should decide what to do as soon as possible.
The, the better.
- I know more, but I understand less.
The, the less I understand.
- If you use more electricity, your bill will be higher.
The more electricity you use,
- Kate had to wait a long time and became more and more impatient.
The, the more

106.5 Use the words on the right to complete the sentences.

- I like to travel light. The less luggage, the better.
- The problem is getting and more serious.
- The more time I have, the it takes me to do things.
- I'm walking as fast as I can. I can't walk faster.
- The higher your income, more tax you have to pay.
- I'm surprised Anna is only 25. I thought she was
- Jane's sister is a nurse.
- I was a little late. The journey took longer than I expected.
- Applications for the job must be received later than 15 April.
- Don't tell him anything. The he knows, the

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