

Comparative 3 (as ... as / than)

A

Study this example situation:



Sarah, Joe and David are all very rich.
Sarah has \$20 million, Joe has \$15 million
and David has \$10 million. So:

Joe is rich.

He is **richer than** David.

But he **isn't as rich as** Sarah.
(= Sarah is **richer than** he is)

Some more examples of **not as ... (as)**:

- ☐ Jack **isn't as old as** he looks. (= he looks **older than** he is)
- ☐ The town centre **wasn't as crowded as** usual. (= it is usually **more crowded**)
- ☐ Lisa **didn't do as well** in the exam **as** she had hoped. (= she had hoped to do **better**)
- ☐ The weather is better today. It's **not as cold**. (= yesterday was **colder than** today)
- ☐ I **don't know as many** people **as** you do. (= you know **more** people **than** me)
- ☐ 'How much was it? Fifty dollars?' 'No, **not as much** as that.' (= **less than** fifty dollars)

You can also say **not so ... (as)**:

- ☐ It's not warm, but it's **not so cold as** yesterday. (= it's not **as cold as** ...)

Less than is similar to **not as ... as**:

- ☐ I spent **less** money **than** you. (= I **didn't** spend **as** much money **as** you)
- ☐ The city centre was **less** crowded **than** usual. (= it **wasn't as** crowded **as** usual)
- ☐ I play tennis **less than** I used to. (= I **don't** play **as** much **as** I used to)

B

We also use **as ... as** (*but not so ... as*) in positive sentences and in questions:

- ☐ I'm sorry I'm late. I got here **as fast as** I could.
- ☐ There's plenty of food. You can have **as much as** you want.
- ☐ Can you send me the information **as soon as** possible, please?
- ☐ Let's walk. It's just **as quick as** taking the bus.

also **twice as ... as, three times as ... as** etc. :

- ☐ Petrol is **twice as expensive as** it was a few years ago.
- ☐ Their house is about **three times as big as** ours.
(or ... **three times the size of** ours)

C

We say **the same as** (*not the same like*):

- ☐ Laura's salary is **the same as** mine. or Laura gets **the same** salary **as** me.
- ☐ David is **the same** age **as** James.
- ☐ Sarah hasn't changed. She still looks **the same as** she did ten years ago.

D

than me / than I am etc.

You can say:

- ☐ You're taller **than me**. or You're taller **than I am**.
(*not usually* You're taller than I)
- ☐ He's not as clever **as her**. or He's not as clever **as she is**.
- ☐ They have more money **than us**. or They have more money **than we have**.
- ☐ I can't run as fast **as him**. or I can't run as fast **as he can**.

Exercises

107.1 Complete the sentences using **as ... as**.

- I'm tall, but you are taller. I'm not as tall as you.
- My salary is high, but yours is higher. My salary isn't
- You know a bit about cars, but I know more.
You don't
- We are busy today, but we were busier yesterday.
We aren't
- I still feel bad, but I felt a lot worse earlier.
I don't
- Our neighbours have lived here for quite a long time, but we've lived here longer.
Our neighbours haven't
- I was a little nervous before the interview, but usually I'm a lot more nervous.
I wasn't

107.2 Write a new sentence with the same meaning.

- Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't as old as he looks.
- I didn't spend as much money as you. You spent more money than me.
- The station was nearer than I thought. The station wasn't
- The meal didn't cost as much as I expected. The meal cost
- I watch TV less than I used to. I don't
- Karen's hair isn't as long as it used to be. Karen used to
- I know them better than you do. You don't
- There are fewer students in this class than in the other one.
There aren't

107.3 Complete the sentences using **as ... as**. Choose from:

fast hard long often quietly soon well

- I'm sorry I'm late. I got here as fast as I could.
- It was a difficult question. I answered it I could.
- 'How long can I stay with you?' 'You can stay you like.'
- I need the information quickly, so let me know possible.
- I like to keep fit, so I go swimming I can.
- I didn't want to wake anybody, so I came in I could.
- You always say how tiring your job is, but I work just you.

107.4 Write sentences using **the same as**.

- David and James are both 22 years old. David is the same age as James.
- You and I both have dark brown hair. Your hair mine.
- I arrived at 10.25 and so did you. I arrived you.
- My birthday is 5 April. It's Tom's birthday too. My birthday Tom's.

107.5 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

as him is less me much soon than twice

- I'll let you know as soon as I have any more news.
- My friends arrived earlier I expected.
- I live in the same street Katherine. We're neighbours.
- He doesn't know much. I know more than
- This morning there was traffic than usual.
- I don't watch TV as as I used to.
- Your bag is quite light. Mine is as heavy as yours.
- We were born in the same year. I'm a little older than she
- I was really surprised. Nobody was more surprised than