Comparison (2)

Before comparatives you can use:
much **a lot** **far** (= a lot) **a bit** **a little** **slightly** (= a little)

- Let's go by car. It's **much cheaper**. (*or* It's **a lot cheaper**.)
- Don't go by train. It's **a lot more expensive**. (*or* It's **much more expensive**.)
- Could you speak **a bit more slowly**? (*or* ...speak **a little more slowly**?)
- This bag is **slightly heavier** than the other one.
- Her illness was **far more serious** than we thought at first. (*or* ...**much more serious**... *or* ...**a lot more serious**...)

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

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

Harder and harder / more and more / more and more difficult etc.

We repeat comparatives like this (...**and**...) to say that something is changing continuously:

- It's becoming **harder and harder** to find a job.
- It's becoming **more and more difficult** to find a job.
- Your English is improving. It's getting **better and better**.
- These days **more and more** people are learning English.

The...the better

Study these examples:

- 'What time shall we leave?' 'The **sooner the better**.' (= as soon as possible)
- 'What sort of box do you want? A big one?' 'Yes, **the bigger the better**.' (= as big as possible)
- When you're travelling, **the less luggage** you have to carry **the better**. (= it is best to have as little luggage as possible)

We also use **the...the...** (with two comparatives) to say that one thing depends on another thing:

- **The warmer** the weather, **the better** I feel. (= if the weather is warmer, I feel better)
- **The sooner** we leave, **the sooner** we will arrive.
- **The younger** you are, **the easier** it is to learn.
- **The more expensive** the hotel, **the better** the service.
- **The more** electricity you use, **the higher** your bill will be.
- **The more** I thought about the plan, **the less** I liked it.

Older and **elder**

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

- Tom looks **older** than he really is.

You can use **elder** (*or* **older**) when you talk about people in a family. You can say (**my**) **elder brother/sister/son/daughter**:

- **My elder brother** is a pilot. (*or* My **older** brother...)

We say 'my **elder brother**' but we do not say that 'somebody is **elder**...':

- My brother is **older** than me. (*not* 'elder than me')

For **eldest**, see Unit 107D.

Escaneado con CamScanner

EXERCISES

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

1 Her illness was ...much more serious than... we thought at first. (much / serious)
2 This bag is too small. I need something ..... (much / big)
3 I'm afraid the problem is ..... it seems. (much / complicated)
4 You looked depressed this morning but you look ..... now. (a bit / happy)
5 I enjoyed our visit to the museum. It was ..... I expected. (far / interesting)
6 You're driving too fast. Could you drive .....? (a bit / slowly)
7 It's ..... to learn a foreign language in the country where it is spoken. (a lot / easy)
8 I thought she was younger than me but in fact she's ..... (slightly / old)

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

1 I'm fed up with waiting. I'm not waiting ...any longer...
2 I'm sorry I'm a bit late but I couldn't get here .....
3 This shop isn't expensive. The prices are ..... anywhere else.
4 I must stop for a rest. I can't walk .....
5 The traffic isn't particularly bad today. It's ..... usual.

3 *Complete the sentences using the structure in Section C* (**...and...**).

1 It's becoming ...harder and harder... to find a job. (hard)
2 That hole in your pullover is getting ..... (big)
3 My bags seemed to get ..... as I carried them. (heavy)
4 As I waited for my interview, I became ..... (nervous)
5 As the day went on, the weather got ..... (bad)
6 Travelling is becoming ..... (expensive)
7 Since she has been in Britain, her English has got ..... (good)
8 As the conversation went on, he became ..... (talkative)

4 *These sentences are like those in Section D. Use the word(s) in brackets (in the correct form) to complete the sentences.*

1 I like warm weather. The warmer the weather, ...the better I feel... (feel)
2 I didn't really like him when we first met.
But the more I got to know him, ... (like)
3 If you're in business, you want to make a profit.
The more goods you sell, ... (profit)
4 It's hard to concentrate when you're tired.
The more tired you are, ... (hard)
5 She had to wait a very long time.
The longer she waited, ... (impatient/become)

5 *Which is correct,* **older** *or* **elder**? *Or both of them?*

1 My older ✓ / elder ✓ brother is a pilot. (**older** *and* **elder** *are both correct*)
2 I'm surprised Diane is only 25. I thought she was older / elder.
3 Ann's younger sister is still at school. Her older / elder sister is a nurse.
4 Martin is older / elder than his brother.

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Superlatives – **the longest / the most enjoyable** etc.

Study these examples:

> What is **the longest** river in the world?
> What was **the most enjoyable** holiday you've ever had?
>
> **Longest** and **most enjoyable** are *superlative* forms.

The superlative form is **-est** or **most...** . In general, we use **-est** for short words and **most...** for longer words. (The rules are the same as those for the comparative – see Unit 104.)

	long → **longest**	**hot** → **hottest**	**easy** → **easiest**	**hard** → **hardest**
but	**most famous**	**most boring**	**most difficult**	**most expensive**

These adjectives are irregular:

good → **best**	**bad** → **worst**	**far** → **furthest**

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

We normally use **the** before a superlative (**the** longest / **the** most famous etc.):

- Yesterday was **the hottest** day of the year.
- That film was really boring. It was **the most boring** film I've ever seen.
- She is a really nice person – one of **the nicest** people I know.
- Why does he always come to see me at **the worst** possible moment?

Compare:

- This hotel is **the cheapest** in town. *(superlative)*
- This hotel is **cheaper** than all the others in town. *(comparative)*

Oldest and **eldest**

The superlative of **old** is **oldest**:

- That church is **the oldest** building in the town. (*not* 'the eldest')

We use **eldest** (*or* **oldest**) when we are talking about people in a family:

- My **eldest son** is 13 years old. (*or* My **oldest** son...)
- Are you **the eldest** in your family? (*or* ...the **oldest**...)

After superlatives we use **in** with places (towns, buildings etc.):

- What is the longest river **in the world**? (*not* 'of the world')
- We had a lovely room. It was one of the nicest **in the hotel**. (*not* 'of the hotel')

We also use **in** for organisations and groups of people (a class / team / company etc.):

- Who is the best student **in the class**? (*not* 'of the class')

We normally use **of** for a period of time:

- What was the happiest day **of your life**?
- Yesterday was the hottest day **of the year**.

We often use the *present perfect* (**I have done**) after a superlative (see also Unit 8A):

- What's **the best** film **you've ever seen**?
- That was **the most delicious** meal **I've had** for a long time.

Sometimes we use **most** + adjective to mean 'very':

- The book you lent me was **most interesting**. (= very interesting)
- Thank you for the money. It was **most generous** of you. (= very generous)

Comparison (**cheaper/more expensive** etc.) → UNITS 104–106 Elder → UNIT 105E

Escaneado con CamScanner

EXERCISES

107.1 *Complete the sentences. Use a superlative* (**-est** *or* **most...**) *+ a preposition.*

1 It's a very nice room. It ...is the nicest room in... the hotel.
2 It's a very cheap restaurant. It's ..... the town.
3 It was a very happy day. It was ..... my life.
4 She's a very intelligent student. She ..... the class.
5 It's a very valuable painting. It ..... the gallery.
6 Spring is a very busy time for me. It ..... the year.

In the following sentences use **one of** *+ a superlative + a preposition.*

7 It's a very nice room. It ...is one of the nicest rooms in... the hotel.
8 He's a very rich man. He's one ..... the world.
9 It's a very old castle. It ..... Britain.
10 She's a very good player. She ..... the team.
11 It was a very bad experience. It ..... my life.
12 He's a very dangerous criminal. He ..... the country.

107.2 *Complete the sentences. Use a superlative* (**-est** *or* **most...**) *or a comparative* (**-er** *or* **more...**).

1 We stayed at ...the cheapest... hotel in the town. (cheap)
2 Our hotel was ...cheaper... than all the others in the town. (cheap)
3 The United States is very large but Canada is ..... (large)
4 What's ..... river in the world? (long)
5 He was a bit depressed yesterday but he looks ..... today. (happy)
6 It was an awful day. It was ..... day of my life. (bad)
7 What is ..... sport in your country? (popular)
8 Everest is ..... mountain in the world. It is ..... than any other mountain. (high)
9 We had a great holiday. It was one of the ..... holidays we've ever had. (enjoyable)
10 I prefer this chair to the other one. It's ..... (comfortable)
11 What's ..... way of getting from here to the station? (quick)
12 Mr and Mrs Brown have got three daughters. ..... is 14 years old. (old)

107.3 *What do you say in these situations? Use a superlative + ...***ever...** *. Use the words given in brackets (in the correct form).*

1 You've just been to the cinema. The film was extremely boring. You tell your friend: (boring/film/see) ...That's the most boring film I've ever seen.
2 Your friend has just told you a joke, which you think is very funny. You say: (funny/joke/hear) That's .....
3 You're drinking coffee with a friend. It's really good coffee. You say: (good/coffee/taste) This .....
4 You are talking to a friend about Mary. Mary is very patient. You tell your friend about her: (patient/person/meet) She .....
5 You have just run ten kilometres. You've never run further than this. You say to your friend: (far/run) That .....
6 You decided to give up your job. Now you think this was a bad mistake. You say to your friend: (bad/mistake/make) It .....
7 Your friend meets a lot of people, some of them famous. You ask your friend: (famous/person/meet?) Who .....?

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