

## COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE

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# 1 Comparative

## Contenuti

- Comparatives
- Superlatives
- Situational dialogue : «The London underground»

COMPARATIVO DI UGUAGLIANZA (tanto...quanto; così...come) **As...as** (con aggettivi e avverbi); **as much...as** (con sostantivi sing. e con verbi); **as many...as** (con sost. plur.)

Examples:

- We are as clever as you;
- He has got as much money as you;
- He has got as many books as you
- Mary can tell as good a story as John;....as good stories as...

### In frasi negative

**So... as** (agg et. e avv.); **so much...as** (sost. sing. e verb.); **so many...as** (sost.pl.)

Examples:

- We aren't so clever as you
- He hasn't so much money as you
- He hasn't so many books as you

### Espressioni da ricordare:

- As soon as possible (appena possibile);
- As little as possible (il meno possibile);
- As well as possible (il meglio possibile)

## 1.1. **Comparativo di maggioranza**

### COMPARATIVO DI MAGGIORANZA (più ...che; più...di)

Aggettivi e avv. monosillabici; aggettivi bisillabi in -er, -le, -ow, -y: aggiungono **-er**

Aggettivi e avv. con più di due sillabe sono preceduti dall'avverbio **'more'**

Ex.:

- long-er; thin-ner; clever-er; narrow-er; prett(y)-ier

l'aggiunta delle desinenze implica il rispetto delle regole ortografiche generali

- English is more difficult than Italian.

Il **comparativo di minoranza** si forma con l'avverbio **'less'**.

Ex.:

- Italian is less difficult than English;

Ma se dico: 'John ha meno libri di me', traduco:

- John has got fewer books than me.

'molto' davanti ad un comparative si traduce con **'much'**

Much more;

Much less;

- ...much more clever than me...;
- ...much less clever than you...;

Il secondo termine di paragone (di, che, di quanto, di quanto non, etc.) è introdotto da:

as (dopo comparativo di eguaglianza)

than (dopo i comparativi di maggioranza e minoranza)

Ex.:

- Mary is more intelligent than her

oppure

- Mary is more intelligent than she is

## 2 Superlative

Superlativo relativo di maggioranza (il più ...di, il più...fra, il più...che)

Segue stesse regole del comparativo:

agg. e avv. monosillabici; aggettivi bisillabi in -er, -le, -ow, -y, aggiungono **-est**

agg. e avv. con più di due sillabe sono preceduti da **'the most'**

Ex.:

- Rome is the finest town in Italy
- Mary is the most diligent pupil of all
- She is the cleverest of all;

Il secondo termine di paragone introdotto da 'di, fra, in, che, etc.' è tradotto con **'of'** (oppure **'in'** se riferito a luogo) oppure da **'that'** (talvolta omissa) se segue una frase relativa

Examples:

- Rome is the finest town in Italy
- Mary is the most beautiful girl of all
- This is the longest novel (that) I ever read

REGOLE ORTOGRAFICHE da rispettare(spelling):

- Busy: busier the busiest
- Early: earlier the earliest
- Thin (n-er): thinner the thinnest

## 2.1. *Superlativo assoluto*

Very (con aggettivi e avverbi);

Much (con participi passati).

Ex.:

- very good; very fine; much loved.

Spesso con aggettivi e avverbi polisillabici si usa ‘most’:

Ex.:

- most interesting, most affectionate.

### 3 Comparativi e superlativi irregolari

- Good/well (buono): better... ..... the best
- Bad, evil (cattivo): worse ..... the worst
- Little (il minore, il meno): less... ..... the least

DA NOTARE:

‘Minore’ riferito ad età si traduce ‘younger’; a dimensione ‘smaller’; a valore ‘lower’, a distanza e spazio ‘shorter’.

Ex.:

- My younger sister; of a smaller size; at a lower price; a shorter distance.

Much/many (molto/molti): more (più) the most (il più, i più)

Most indica ‘la maggior parte di’ e si usa anche nel senso di ‘più di tutto’

Ex.:

- Most people believe so (la magg. parte lo crede);
- Most of your friends....;
- That’s what surprises me most (ecco che cosa mi sorprende di più).

Far (lontano): farther... ..... the farthest

Varianti sono: further..... furthest, nel senso di oltre, ulteriore

Examples:

- On further inquiry Mary found out the whole truth (in un’ulteriore inchiesta Mary scoprì tutta la verità).
- If Mary goes further than that, he will go away (se Mary va oltre, lui se ne andrà).

Old (vecchio): older(più vecchio)/elder(più anziano).....the oldest/ the eldest

Le forme 'elder/eldest si riferiscono a persone

legate da parentela, ma non si usano se seguite

da secondo termine introdotto da 'than'.

**Ex.:**

- Mary is her elder sister; she is much older than her/she (is).

Late (tardi, recente, tardi): later (più recente/più tardi) - the latest (il più recente)

Latter (il secondo di due) - the last (l'ultimo)

'latter'(il secondo fra due) si usa in contrasto con 'former' (il primo di due).

'last' indica l'ultimo di una serie.

**Ex.:**

- Do not come too late;
- We shall write to him later;
- Bob and John are brothers: the former is a professor, the latter is a journalist.
- The latest news (le ultime notizie) / The last day of the year.
- Here is his latest poem, which will probably be his last.

Near (vicino), nearer, the nearest (il più vicino)/ the next (il successivo, il prossimo, l'adiacente)

**Ex.:**

- the next day (il giorno seguente);
- the next stop (la prossima fermata);
- the next room (la stanza attigua).

**SEMPRE PIU'...', 'SEMPRE MENO....'**

- She is growing kinder and kinder (diventa sempre più gentile)
- She is growing more and more attentive (diventa sempre più attenta)
- She is growing less and less attentive (diventa sempre meno attenta)

**'più....più'**, **'quanto più...tanto più'**, etc.

le correlative italiane SI TRADUCONO col  
comparativo preceduto dall'articolo.

**Ex.:**

- The wiser you are the greater is your endurance (più sei saggio più grande è la tua tenacia)
- The more you talk the less you understand (più parli meno capisci).

LA LOCUZIONE AVVERBIALE: **'non...più'** SI TRADUCE:

se si riferisce a quantità: **no more**, or **not...any more**

**Ex.:**

- He said no more (non disse più nulla);
- he did not want to see her any more (non volle vederla più)

se si riferisce a spazio oppure a distanza: **no farther** or **not any farther**

**Ex.:**

- Having reached the forest,
- decided not to walk any farther (to walk no farther)

se si riferisce a tempo: **no longer**, **not any longer**

**Ex.:**

- After 8 o'clock, I shall not wait for her any longer

CFR. l'uso delle espressioni formate dal passato di **'to have'** seguite dal comparativo (con valore di condizionale)



**Examples:**

I had better... than (farei meglio a ... che a..);

- I had rather... than/I had sooner...than (preferirei piuttosto...che);
- I had as soon...as/ I had as well...as (sarei altrettanto disposta a... che a...)

L'infinito che segue non vuole il 'to'

**Examples:**

- I had better go than stay here (farei meglio ad andare che a rimanere)
- I had rather leave for Italy than spend my holidays here  
(preferirei partire per l'Italia piuttosto che passare la vacanze qui)
- I had as well take an exam in English as in French (Sarei altrettanto disposto a fare un esame di Inglese che di francese).

### **3.1. Superlative and Comparatives Exercises**

**Use the superlative and comparative forms of the adjectives given.**

1. The car is   SLOWER   (slow) than the plane.
2. The gloves are           CHEAPER           (cheap) than the T-shirt.
3. The armchair is   HEAVIER   (heavy) than the chair.
4. Susan is the   SHORTEST   (short) of the three.
5. Geography is   MORE\_INT.   (interesting) than History.
6. His class is the   TIDIEST   (tidy) of all.
7. My sister is   FATTER   (fat) than my brother.
8. My classroom is   CLEANER   (clean) than the other one.

9. The story about the ghost was MORE (frightening) than the story about the magician.
10. Ben is the TALLEST (tall) boy in the class.

**Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use a comparative form (-er or more...).**

We were very busy at work today. We're not usually as busy as that.

We were BUSIER THAN USUAL.

I expected my parents to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.

My parents ARRIVED EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED.

Mary and Sophia did badly in the exam. Mary got 20% but Sophia only got 15%.

Mary did BETTER IN THE EXAM THAN SOPHIA.

You can go by bus or by train. The buses run every 30 minutes. The trains run every hour.

The buses RUN MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THE TRAINS.

Alice and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Alice stopped after eight kilometres.

I ran FURTHER THAN ALICE.

Yesterday the temperature was 5 degrees. Today is only 3 degrees.

Today IS COOLER THAN YESTERDAY.

Our journey takes 3 hours by car and five hours by train.

OUR JOURNEY IS LONGER BY TRAIN THAN BY CAR.

Comparatives and superlatives

**Complete the sentences:**

1. It's THE BEST (good) whisky I've ever tasted.
2. What's THE LONGEST (long) river in Europe ?
3. How slow you are !Try to be a little QUICKER (quick).

4. The \_\_\_BEST\_\_\_(good) things in life are free.
5. The Nile is \_\_\_LONGER\_\_\_\_\_(long) the Mississippi.
6. Staying at a hotel is \_\_\_MORE\_\_\_\_\_(comfortable) camping.
7. Teaching should be one of \_\_\_THE MOST\_ (gratifying) jobs.
8. France is \_\_\_BIGGER THAN\_\_\_\_(big) Switzerland.
9. It's \_\_\_THE EASIEST\_\_\_\_\_(easy) of the two exercises.
10. What I like \_\_\_BEST\_\_\_\_(good) in the film is the end.

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

1. I was a bit nervous before the exam but usually I'm a lot more nervous.

I wasn't AS NERVOUS\_\_\_\_\_AS USUAL.

2. My salary is high but yours is higher.

My salary isn't \_\_\_SO/AS HIGH AS YOURS.

3. They've worked in that company for quite a long time but we've worked there longer.

They haven't WORKED THERE\_\_\_AS LONG AS WE HAVE\_\_\_\_\_

4. It's still very hot but it was hotter yesterday.

It isn't AS HOT AS IT WAS \_\_\_\_\_.

5. You know a bit about motorbikes but I know more.

You don't KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT\_\_\_AS I KNOW.

6. I still feel a bit tired but I felt a lot more tired yesterday.

I don't FEEL AS TIRED AS I FELT\_\_\_\_\_.

7. You are quite short but Sarah is shorter.

You're not AS SHORT AS SARAH.

**Fill in the blanks In the text with the proper form of the adjective in brackets.**

São Paulo is the LARGEST (large) city in South America and the third MOST (populous) city of the world, with more than 10 million inhabitants. It is the economical capital of Brazil and a very BUSY (busy) place. It is also RICH (rich) in culture parks and museums.

São Paulo is centered around the Praça da Sé, where there is a stone mark symbolizing the "point zero" of the city. The subway system is CLEAN (clean) and EFFICIENT (efficient) but covers only a few areas of the city, although extensions are being made. SOME neighbourhoods to visit include Jardins, Itaim and the Ibirapuera Park.

Fill in the blanks in the text with...

The main sights in the city include the different neighbourhoods with their SPECIAL (special) Italian, Japanese or Arabic influences. They have their own characteristic atmosphere and it is a lot of fun to just walk around, go to one of the many SMALL (small) restaurants or have a drink somewhere.

Brazilians say that paulistanos (São Paulo locals) live to work and to eat, which is probably true. Food in São Paulo is the BEST (good) in the country and rivals that of any major capital in the world. If you are there and like to eat meat, make sure you try the rodízios (barbecue) or feijoada (pork and beans - served only on Wednesdays and Saturdays). The pizzas are also extremely tasteful and a must-eat. You can find it from a WIDE (wide) range of restaurants from the SIMPLEST (simple) delivery place to fine EXPENSIVE (expensive) ones.

Fill in the blanks in the text...

São Paulo is also very much a party town. You can get stuck in traffic in the middle of the night when party animals return from their hunt.

Automotive traffic in São Paulo is COMPLICATED (complicated), especially in main routes, all along the weekdays and gets WORSE (bad) at rush hours (from 8 am to 10 am and from 6 pm to 8 pm). Laws to regulate traffic include a rule forbidding cars to circulate at specific week days depending on the final number of their license. On the weekends the traffic is BETTER (good) with some complications in places where there are bars, shopping centers or other public attractions.

São Paulo has the LARGEST (large) underground transportation system in Brazil: the "Metro". It is not as COMPREHENSIVE (comprehensive) as the trains in Europe or North America, but it serves most of the important areas. It is the SAFEST (safe) and THE CLEANEST (clean) way to get around São Paulo.

## 4 Situational dialogue

Situational dialogue:

**The London underground:** fares on the london undergrond(the Tube) are not fixed, but are proportional to the distance travelled. There are nine lines in the system. The Bakerloo, Central, Circle, District, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly, Victoria and Waterloo, and City lines.

1.

Which way do I go for Queensway, please?

Take the Bakerloo to Paddington; the District to Notting Hill and then get the Central.

Where do I go now?

Take the escalator on your right.

2.

How do i get to Lancaster Gate, please?

Catch the Metropolitan to Liverpool Street and then change to the Central Line.

Which Platform do I want?

Follow those signs. You can't go wrong.

3.

Which line do I take for Marble Arch, please?

That's easy; it is the next station down the Central Line.

How do I get down to the trains?

Get that lift over there.

4.

Can you tell me the best way to get to Bond Street, please?

You want the Victoria to Oxford Circus and then you change on to the Central.

Which way do I go first?

Go straight down the stairs, and turn left at the bottom.

## 5 Autovalutazione

### TEST DI AUTOVALUTAZIONE

1. The car is...(slow) than the plane.
2. The armchair is..(heavy) than the chair.
3. Mary is...(short) of the three.
4. My cousin is...(fat) than my brother.
5. Ben is...(tall) boy in the class.
6. What's...(long) river in Europe?
7. It's ...(good) whisky I've ever tasted.
8. His class is ...(tidy) of all
9. Teaching is one of....(gratifying) jobs.
10. How slow you are! Try to be a little...(quick).

Autovalutazione: risposte

1. slow/slower/slowest/the slower.
2. heavy/heavier/heaviest/the heavier
3. short/the short/the shortest/shortier.
4. fat/fater/fatter/the fatter/
5. tall/the taller/the tallest/ tallest.
6. long/ longer/ the longest/ longest.
7. good/the gooder/ best/ the best.

Autovalutazione



Risposte multiple

8. tidy/tider/tidder/the tidiest.

9. gratifing/ more gratifying/the most gratifying/ the more gratyfing.

10. quicker/ the quicker/the quickest/ more quick.

Risposte corrette

**Answer key:**

**1.Slower 2.heavier 3.the shortest 4.fatter 5.the tallest 6. the longest 7. the best 8. the tidiest 9. the most gratifying 10.quicker.**