

Equative, Comparative & Superlative Adverbs

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Grammar Notes

EQUATIVE, COMPARATIVE & SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

There are many kinds of adverbs in English. Adverbs can describe verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, or a complete sentence. Adverbs of manner **describe** verbs (actions). They describe *how* an action is done. Adverbs of manner can also be used to **compare** how two or more people (or things) do an action.

A. Equative Form

The *equative* form of an adverb of manner is used to show **equality**. This means someone (or something) does an action in the same way as someone else.

Pattern	Examples
as + Adv + as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My dog barks as loudly as your dog. • He speaks as quietly as she does. • I can play the guitar as well as you.

B. Non-Equative Form

The *non-equative* form of an adverb of manner is used to show **inequality**. This means someone (or something) does not do an action in the same way as someone else.

Pattern	Examples
not as + Adv + as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My dog does not bark as loudly as your dog. • He doesn't speak as quietly as her. • I can't play the guitar as well as he can.

Grammar Notes cont.

C. Comparative Form

The *comparative* form is used to **compare** how an action is done between **two** people or things. This means that someone or something else does an action *more than* someone else.

Pattern	Examples
more + Adv + than	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amara dances more gracefully than her sister. Filipe checked his work more carefully than I did. We discussed the topic more seriously than the other group.

Note

For two-syllable words that end in -y, comparative adverbs are different from comparative adjectives.

- quickly → more quickly (comparative adverb)
- friendly → friendlier (comparative adjective)

D. Superlative Form

The *superlative* form is used to **compare** how an action is done among **three or more** people or things. This means that someone or something else does an action *the most* when compared to a group.

Pattern	Examples
the + most + Adv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bao spoke the most politely to the teacher. Gabriela laughed the most loudly of all of us. I finished the assignment the most quickly in the class.

Note

For two-syllable words that end in -y, superlative adverbs are different from superlative adjectives

- calmly → the most calmly (superlative adverb)
- scary → the scariest (superlative adjective)

Grammar Notes cont.

E. Irregular Forms

Well		
Equative	as well as	Our choir sang almost as well as them.
Comparative	better than	They sang better than the group before.
Superlative	the best	They sang the best in the competition.

Badly		
Equative	as badly as	You drive as badly as your brother.
Comparative	worse than	You drive worse than your sister.
Superlative	the worst	You drive the worst out of everyone in your family.

Early		
Equative	as early as	Jakub got to the meeting as early as Charles.
Comparative	earlier than	Anneke got to the meeting earlier than Nijati.
Superlative	the earliest	Michelle got to the meeting the earliest because she wanted to prepare for her presentation.

Late		
Equative	as late as	Julia arrived to class as late as the teacher.
Comparative	later than	I arrived to class later than Julia.
Superlative	the latest	I arrived to class the latest of all my classmates.



Grammar Notes cont.

E. Irregular Forms cont.

Hard		
Equative	as hard as	He studies as hard as she does.
Comparative	harder than	I study harder than him.
Superlative	the hardest	I study the hardest of all of us.

Fast		
Equative	as fast as	Min Ju runs as fast as Miguel.
Comparative	faster than	Min Ju runs faster than Abdul.
Superlative	the fastest	Min Ju runs the fastest on our soccer team.

Far		
Equative	as far as	She lives as far from school as me.
Comparative	farther* than	She lives farther from school than him.
	further* than	Our research is further along than theirs.
Superlative	the farthest*	Out of all the students at our school, she lives the farthest away.
	the furthest*	Compared to all the other scientists' research, ours is the furthest along.

***Note:**

These forms are mostly interchangeable, but *farther/farthest* is more common for physical distance while *further/furthest* is more common for other cases.

Exercise 1

EQUATIVE & NON-EQUATIVE FORMS

Read the information. Then use the adverb in parentheses to write an equative or non-equative sentence.

Ex. Josef walks slowly. I walk fast. **(fast)**

Josef doesn't walk as fast as me.

1. She runs quickly. I run quickly too. **(quickly)**

2. He laughed enthusiastically. I laughed softly. **(enthusiastically)**

3. I approached the big dog carefully. You approached it carelessly. **(carefully)**

4. You play the piano beautifully. She plays the piano beautifully too. **(beautifully)**

5. Danielle speaks quietly. Sheena speaks quietly too. **(quietly)**

6. She played soccer well today. He didn't play soccer very well today. **(well)**

7. Amir petted the cat gently. Maya petted the cat gently too. **(gently)**

8. Our teacher speaks slowly to us. Their teacher speaks quickly to them. **(slowly)**

9. We tried hard on this assignment. They didn't try very hard. **(hard)**

10. Toshiyaki answered the questions intelligently. Hiro answered the questions intelligently too. **(intelligently)**

Exercise 2

PAIR WORK

With a partner, ask and answer the questions below (orally).
Then write an equative or comparative sentence based on your answers.

Example #1

Student A: Do you run quickly?
Student B: Yes, I do. How about you?
Student A: I run quickly too.
Both: *[write]* He/She runs as quickly as me.

Example #2

Student A: Do you run quickly?
Student B: Yes, I do. How about you?
Student A: I run slowly.
Student A: *[writes]* He/She runs more quickly than me.
Student B: *[writes]* He/She runs more slowly than me.

1. Do you run quickly?

2. Do you study hard?

3. Do you speak quietly?

4. Do you sing well?

5. Do you introduce yourself politely?

6. Do you sneeze loudly?

7. Do you drive fast?

8. Do you play the guitar badly?

Exercise 3

COMPARATIVE FORM

Fill in the blanks with the comparative form of the adverb in parentheses and "than."

Ex. My partner prepared for the presentation more thoroughly than I did.
(thoroughly)

1. He ties his shoelaces _____ I do.
(loosely)
2. When the fire alarm went off, my coworker exited the building _____ me.
(calmly)
3. She plays soccer _____ her teammates.
(well)
4. I live _____ from the city _____ the rest of my team.
(far)
5. My sister drives _____ my parents do.
(dangerously)
6. Suriya arrived _____ for the test _____ her classmates.
(early)
7. He clapped _____ the other people in the audience.
(enthusiastically)
8. They sang _____ the other teams at the competition.
(badly)
9. Rafael stood up to a bully _____ the other kids.
(bravely)
10. You slept in _____ everyone else.
(late)

Exercise 4

WRITING

Write your own sentences using the comparative forms of the adverbs in the box.

Adverbs

- ~~silently~~
- quietly
- politely
- clearly
- hard
- safely
- loudly
- easily
- well
- fast
- quickly

Ex. *I can sneak up on someone more silently than my sister.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Exercise 5

SUPERLATIVE FORM

Find one error in each superlative sentence.
Write the correct sentence on the lines.

Ex. Lily swims the faster in her family.

Lily swims the fastest in her family.

1. Out of all the students in this class, Aisha studies most diligently.

2. Jae played the worse of all the competitors during the tennis match.

3. Out of all my coworkers, Sonja handed in her report the most lately.

4. My friend is chewing most noisily in the entire cafeteria.

5. Who threw the ball the most farthest?

6. Which painting sold the most well at the art show?

7. Of all my teachers, Miss Jackson taught us the patiently.

8. My father wakes up the most early in our family.

9. Because she was the most nervous, she spoke the most rapid.

10. His mother dressed him the most warmest of all his friends.

Exercise 6

GROUP WORK

Get into small groups. Come up with a question for each superlative adverb. Then talk with your group members to find out whose name to write for each one.

Example

Maria: Who studies the hardest?

Tai: I study two hours a day.

Larissa: I don't study very much during the week.

Maria: Well, I only study an hour a day. Looks like Tai studies the hardest!

#	Adverb	Question	Name
1	the hardest		
2	the most quickly		
3	the most slowly		
4	the fastest		
5	the best		
6	the most carefully		
7	the most quietly		
8	the most loudly		
9	the worst		
10	the most politely		

Exercise 7

MIXED FORMS

Combine the sentences into one. Use the equative, comparative, or superlative form based on the meaning of the sentence.

Ex. Christophe greets customers politely. Chiaki isn't very polite to customers.

Christophe greets customers more politely than Chiaki.

1. Justin runs slowly. Josh runs more slowly.

2. Michelle plays the violin beautifully. Tina plays the violin beautifully too.

3. She works hard. He works harder.

4. Takahiro drives the most carefully. His friends drive carefully.

5. He walks fast. She walks faster.

6. Lily talks quickly. Paul talks more quickly.

7. My sister speaks French fluently. My brother speaks French fluently too.

8. John did the worst on the test. His classmates did well.

9. My mother plays cards well. My father plays cards better.

10. My grandmother gives money generously. My grandfather gives money generously too.

Exercise 8

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

- I finished my homework _____ you.
 - quickly
 - more quickly
 - quicker
 - as quickly as
- He ran around the block _____ than I did.
 - most quickly
 - as quickly as
 - more quickly
 - quickly
- Nicole finished the test _____ .
 - as fast as
 - the fastest
 - fastly
 - faster than
- Patrick was upset because the clerk spoke _____ to him out of all the customers.
 - more rudely
 - the most rudely
 - rudely
 - as rudely as
- The child walked _____ into the haunted house as a adult.
 - bravely
 - more bravely than
 - as bravely
 - bravely more
- Ana promised that she answered my question _____ .
 - truthfully
 - more truthful
 - as truthfully as
 - more truthfully than
- My friends didn't greet me _____ as I expected.
 - as cheerfully
 - cheerfully than
 - more cheerfully
 - the most cheerfully
- The boy climbed the wall _____ his friend.
 - easily
 - more easily
 - easier
 - more easily than
- Shayla lives _____ away out of all my classmates.
 - further
 - farther
 - the farthest
 - further than
- The wind blows _____ in the mountains than in the valley.
 - violently
 - more violently
 - as violently as
 - the most violently
- Out of all the talented singers here, he sings _____ .
 - better
 - the best
 - well
 - good
- I didn't get to class _____ you.
 - more lately
 - later
 - as lately as
 - as late as

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students learn the form and usage of equative, comparative, and superlative adverbs in this lesson. Students practice each type separately before trying combined exercises.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 2 hours

TAGS: adverbs, comparative, superlative, equative, non-equative, comparing, adverbs of manner, verbs, grammar practice, grammar

Exercise 1

Answers may vary. You may want to encourage your students to try both ways of forming equative/non-equative sentences (by making sentences using only the object or the subject + auxiliary).

1. She runs as quickly as me. / She runs as quickly as I do.
2. I didn't laugh as enthusiastically as him. /
I didn't laugh as enthusiastically as he did.
3. You didn't approach the dog as carefully as me. /
You didn't approach the dog as carefully as I did.
4. You play the piano as beautifully as her. /
You play the piano as beautifully as she does.
5. Danielle speaks as quietly as Sheena. /
Danielle speaks as quietly as Sheena does.
6. He didn't play soccer as well as her. /
He didn't play soccer as well as she did.
7. Amir petted the cat as gently as Maya. /
Amir petted the cat as gently as Maya did.
8. Their teacher doesn't speak as slowly as our teacher. /
Their teacher doesn't speak as slowly as our teacher does.
9. They didn't try as hard as us. /
They didn't try as hard as we did.
10. Toshiyaki answered the questions as intelligently as Hiro. /
Toshiyaki answered the questions as intelligently as Hiro did.

Exercise 2

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct equative and comparative adverb formation and usage.

Exercise 3

1. more loosely than
2. more calmly than
3. better than
4. farther/further, than
5. more dangerously
6. earlier, than
7. more enthusiastically than
8. worse than
9. more bravely than
10. later than

Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct comparative adverb formation.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 5

1. Out of all the students in this class, Aisha studies **the** most diligently.
2. Jae played the **worst** of all the competitors during the tennis match.
3. Out of all my coworkers, Sonja handed in her report the **latest**.
4. My friend is chewing **the** most noisily in the entire cafeteria.
5. Who threw the ball **the farthest**?
6. Which painting sold the **best** at the art show?
7. Of all my teachers, Miss Jackson taught us the **most** patiently.
8. My father wakes up the **earliest** in our family.
9. Because she was the most nervous, she spoke the most **rapidly**.
10. His mother dressed him the most **warmly** of all his friends.

Exercise 6

Answers will vary.
Monitor your students for correct superlative adverb usage.

Exercise 7

Answers may vary.

1. Josh runs more slowly than Justin.
2. Michelle plays the violin as beautifully as Tina (does).
3. He works harder than her. / He works harder than she does.
4. Takahiro drives the most carefully of all his friends.
5. She walks faster than him. / She walks faster than he does.
6. Paul talks more quickly than Lily (does).
7. My sister speaks French as fluently as my brother (does).
8. John did the worst of all his classmates on the test. / John did the worst in the class on the test.
9. My father plays cards better than my mother (does).
10. My grandmother gives money as generously as my grandfather (does).

Exercise 8

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. d | 3. b | 5. c | 7. a | 9. c | 11. b |
| 2. c | 4. b | 6. a | 8. d | 10. b | 12. d |

EDITOR'S NOTE:

1. We recommend doing the [Adverbs of Manner lesson](https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1626) before doing this lesson: <https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1626>
2. We also recommend following up with our combined lesson on [Comparatives & Superlatives: Adjectives & Adverbs](https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1600): <https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1600>
3. If your students need to review [Equative, Comparative & Superlative Adjectives](https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1607), try this lesson: <https://esllibrary.com/courses/88/lessons/1607>