

the MORE  
YOU PRACTICE  
THE BETTER  
YOU GET

ALL LIFE IS AN  
EXPERIMENT. THE MORE  
EXPERIMENTS YOU  
MAKE THE BETTER.

Happy	happier - The happiest
Hot	Hotter – the hottest
Comfortable	More comfortable – the most comfortable
Brave	Braver – the bravest
difficult	More difficult – the most difficult
dirty	Dirtier – the dirtiest
Good	better – the best
Bad	worse – the worst
Important	more important – the most important
sunny	sunnier – the sunniest

- ◆ We use **as + adjective (positive form) + as** to show that two persons or things are similar in some way. In a negative sentence, we use **not as/so ... as**.

e.g. Peter is **as tall as** Tom.

Tom is **not as/so strong as** Peter.

- ◆ We use **less + adjective (positive form) + than** for two persons or things.

e.g. This book is **less interesting than** that one.

- ◆ We use **the least + adjective (positive form) + of/in** for more than two persons or things.

e.g. The film we saw last night was **the least interesting of** all I've seen this month.

The ... the ...

You can say the (sooner/bigger/more etc.) the better:

- 'What time shall we leave?' 'The sooner the better.' (= as soon as possible)
- A: What sort of box 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 warmer the weather, the better I feel. (= if the weather is warmer, I feel better)
- The sooner we leave, the earlier we will arrive.
- The younger you are, the easier it is to learn.

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

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

We say 'my elder sister', but we do not say that 'somebody is elder':

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

## Exercise 1

### Choose the correct answer

- 1) The fish was \_\_\_\_\_ the meat. a) so tasty as b) as tasty as
- 2) This book is \_\_\_\_\_ I have ever read. A) the most interesting b) the more interesting
- 3) This temple is the \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe. A) eldest b) oldest
- 4) That dress is a lot longer \_\_\_\_\_ the other one. A) than b) that
- 5) Nothing is \_\_\_\_\_ than being stuck in a traffic jam. A) worse b) worst
- 6) That skyscraper is one of \_\_\_\_\_ buildings in the world. A) the taller b) the tallest
- 7) The test wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ I thought. A) as hard as b) hard as
- 8) Actually, today I feel \_\_\_\_\_ than I did yesterday. A) more bad b) worse
- 9) Our journey took \_\_\_\_\_ than we expected. A) longer than b) the longest than
- 10) I'm surprised Diane is only 25. I thought she was \_\_\_\_\_. a) older b) elder
  
- 11) Jane's younger sister is still at school. Her \_\_\_\_\_ sister is a nurse. A) older b) elder
  
- 12) Martin is \_\_\_\_\_ than his brother. a) older b) elder

## Exercise 2

### Open the brackets using the correct degree of comparison

- 1 Which is ...*the coldest*... (cold) planet in our solar system? *Pluto*.
- 2 Is the Gobi desert ..... (large) the Sahara desert?
- 3 Which is ..... (heavy) animal in the world?
- 4 Which is ..... (long) wall in the world?
- 5 Is Mount Everest ..... (high) Kilimanjaro?
- 6 Which is ..... (small) continent in the world?
- 7 Does the cheetah run ..... (fast) the lion?
- 8 Does the blue whale make a ..... (loud) sound ..... the polar bear?
- 9 Which are ..... (tall) buildings in the world?
- 10 Has a falcon got ..... (good) eyesight ..... a human?

### Exercise 3

Open the brackets using the construction the.....the

- 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 Kate had to wait a very long time.  
The longer she waited, ..... . (impatient / become)

### Exercise 4

Choose the correct answer

as fast as - as long as - as often as - as quietly as - as soon as - as well-qualified as

- 1) I'm sorry I'm late. I got here \_\_\_\_\_ I could.
- 2) It was a difficult question. I answered it \_\_\_\_\_ I could.
- 3) How long can I stay with you? You can stay \_\_\_\_\_ you like.
- 4) I like to keep fit, so I go swimming \_\_\_\_\_ I can.
- 5) I didn't want to wake anybody, so I came in \_\_\_\_\_ I could.

### Exercise 5

Open the brackets using the correct degree of comparison

- A: What do you think of this dress, Julia?  
B: It's lovely. It's **1)** ...the nicest... (nice) of all you've tried on yet.  
A: Yes, but I prefer short dresses.  
B: Well, it's true that this dress is **2)** ..... (long) the blue one, but it's also **3)** ..... (elegant).  
A: Yes, but it's **4)** ..... (expensive) dress we've seen so far.  
B: I know. The blue one is much **5)** ..... (cheap), but it doesn't look as good as the black one.  
A: Oh! I can't decide. What time is it?  
B: It's only 6 o'clock. We've got plenty of time.  
A: Really! I thought it was **6)** ..... (late) that.  
B: Why don't we go to another shop?  
A: No, I've decided. I like the black dress **7)** ..... (good). It's **8)** ..... (expensive), but it doesn't matter.  
B: OK. Let's go and pay for it.

## Exercise 6

Compare these two pictures

