



## Study Guide for Comparatives (Comparativos) English for Spanish Speakers Kevin M. Chevalier

### Equality (Igualdad)

When comparing equal characteristics/qualities in English, “**as...as**” is used for adjectives and adverbs. It is equal to the Spanish form “**tan...como**”:

Examples:

**Eduardo is as tall as Carlos.**

Eduardo es tan alto como Carlos.

**Lisa is as beautiful as her mother.**

Lisa es tan bonita como su madre.

**That document is not as important as this document.**

Ese documento no es tan importante como este documento.

When comparing equal quantities/amounts or comparing nouns in English, “as much as” or “as many as” are used. They are equal to the Spanish form “**tanto...como**.”

“Many” is used for nouns that can be counted (countable nouns); usually plural nouns.

“Much” is used for nouns that can’t be counted (uncountable nouns); usually singular nouns.

Examples:

**I have as many cookies as my siblings.**

Tengo tantas galletas como mis hermanos.

**Clara has as many books as María.**

Clara tiene tantos libros como María.

**This boy does not have as much money as his father.**

Este niño no tiene tanto dinero como su padre.

### Inequality (Desigualdad)

In English the comparative form is used when two things are being compared. “**-er, more...than, or less...than**” are used with most adjectives, adverbs, and nouns. It is equal to the Spanish form “**más...que**” or “**menos...que**”.

Examples:

**I am poorer than you.**

Yo soy más pobre que Ud.

**Rodrigo is less intelligent than his cousin.**

Rodrigo es menos inteligente que su primo.

**My wife has arrived later than my father-in-law.**

Mi mujer ha llegado más tarde que mi suegro.

**My nephews work more diligently than their classmates.**

Mis sobrinos trabajan más diligentemente que sus compañeros de clase.

### **Superlatives (Superlativos)**

In English, superlatives are used to express the “highest” or “lowest” degree of comparison (**-est, the most, the least**). It is used when three or more things are being compared.

In Spanish, the equivalent forms are

“el/la más” and the plural “los/las más” express “**the most.**”

“el/la menos” and the plural “los/las menos” express “**the least.**”

Example:

**This university is the largest in the country.**

Esta universidad es la más grande del país.

**I am the least paid in the company.**

Soy el menos pagado en la compañía.

**My professor is the most pleasant (likeable) in the school.**

Mi profesora es la más simpática de la escuela.

**This is the most interesting book I read.**

Ésto es el libro más interesante que leí.

### **Irregular (Irregular)**

Similar to Spanish, English has irregular forms of comparatives and superlatives.

<b>Positive Form</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
<b>Good (Bueno)</b>	Better (Mejor)	Best
<b>Well (Bien)</b>	Better (Mejor)	Best
<b>Little (Poco)</b>	Less, Fewer (Menos)	Least
<b>Some</b>	More	Most
<b>Much</b>	More (Más)	Most
<b>Many</b>	More (Más)	Most
<b>Bad, Badly (Malo, Mal)</b>	Worse (Peor)	Worst

Example:

**This restaurant is better than the other one.**

Este restaurante es mejor que el otro.

**Pilar sings worse than Julie.**

Pilar canta peor que Julie.

**Paulo is the best player on the team.**

Paulo es el mejor jugador del equipo.

### Guide for comparatives

#### **1. For one syllable words, -er and -est is usually used.**

Example:

**She runs faster than her sister.**

Ella corre más rápidamente que su hermana.

**Juan is the smartest.**

Juan es el más inteligente.

#### **2. For two syllable words, some adjectives use “-er, -est” while others use “more” or “most.” ALL two syllable words use less or least.**

Examples:

**Ben is happier than Daniel.**

Ben está más feliz que Daniel.

**Silvia is the most thoughtful (attentive) student.**

Silvia es el estudiante más atento.

**Esteban is the least funny man.**

Esteban es el hombre menos chistoso.

#### **3. For words with three or more syllables, “more/most” or “less/least” are used.**

Examples:

**Dr. Lee is more generous than Dr. Smith.**

Dr. Lee es más generoso que Dr. Smith.

**Jacinto is less talkative than Sergio.**

Jacinto es menos hablador que Sergio.

**This is the most elegant street in the city.**

Ésta es la calle más elegante de la ciudad.

#### **4. For adverbs, “more/most” or “less/least” are commonly used.**

Examples:

**The elephant runs less quickly than the tiger.**

El elefante corre menos rápidamente que el tigre.

**My English teacher speaks more clearly than my math teacher.**

Mi profesor de inglés habla más claramente que mi profesor de matemáticas.

**The journalist reads most carefully.**

El periodista lee el más cuidadosamente.

5. Be sure to avoid double comparisons in English where both -er/-est and more/most are used.

Examples:

**This path is quicker. NOT: This path is more quicker. X**

**The house is larger. NOT: The house is more larger. X**

**The cat is smaller. NOT: The cat is less smaller. X**

**The pizza is the tastiest. NOT: The pizza is the most tastiest. X**

**This salad is the healthiest choice. NOT: The salad is the most healthiest. X**