PDF 1 - The Upgrade Code - How We Actually Compare.



COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

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Forget the grammar chart. Every comparison is an UPGRADE or a DOWNGRADE. In English we have 3 moves.

MOVE 1: The -er / more Move (Comparative)
We compare 2 things.
MOVE 2: The -est / most Move (Superlative)
We pick the #1 in a group.
MOVE 3: The as...as Move (Equal)
We say things are the same. And **not as...as** for the sneaky downgrade.

A. Pattern Spotting [Not Rules Memorizing]

Look at these real reviews. What pattern do you see?

Review	Pattern?	Form
This hostel is cheaper than the last one.	1 syllable -> -er	cheap -> cheaper
The night bus was more comfortable than I expected.	2+ syllables / long -> more	more comfortable
This is the worst coffee in Peru!	Irregular	bad -> worst
He drives more carefully than his sister.	Adverb: -ly -> more	more carefully
Cape Town is not as noisy as Bangkok.	Equal / Negative equal	as noisy as / not as...as

B. The Real Rules (30-second version)

Adjectives: short (big, cheap, happy) -> bigger, happiest / happy -> happier [y->ier]. Long (expensive, boring) -> more expensive, most boring. **Irregulars you MUST know:** good/well -> better/best, bad/badly -> worse/worst, far -> farther/furthest or further/furthest.

Adverbs: fast, hard, early -> faster, hardest. Most -ly adverbs -> more slowly, most carefully.

as...as: Hanoi is as hot as Bangkok. (= equal). Hanoi is not as expensive as Singapore. (= less)

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C. Upgrade / Downgrade Lab

Your phone is too old. Write 6 sentences upgrading your life. Use each target once: **cheaper than,** more useful than, not as slow as, better than, the most reliable, as fast as

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

D. Spot The Lie

Find the grammar lie:

1. This phone is more cheaper than that one.
   _____
2. She speaks English more fluently than me.
   _____
3. He is the most tall student in class.
   _____
4. My day was not as bad as yours.
   _____
5. That was the most carefully he has ever driven.
   _____

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Answer Key

Spot The Lie

1. This phone is more cheaper -> cheaper / more expensive (double comparative error)
2. She speaks English more fluently than me. -> CORRECT (fluently = more fluently)
3. He is the most tall -> the tallest (short -> -est)
4. My day was not as bad as yours. -> CORRECT
5. That was the most carefully he has ever driven. -> the most carefully HE HAS ever driven?

Actually needs: the most carefully he has ever driven is OK, but better:
That was the most careful driving / He drove most carefully.
Both acceptable at B1, teach 'most carefully' for adverb.

Upgrade Lab: Accept any logical sentence. Check form: cheaper than, more useful than, not as slow as, better than, the most reliable, as fast as.

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