

## ► Grammar in context

### GRAMMAR GUIDE

#### Comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs

1a Look at the sentences. Which contain comparative forms and which contain superlative forms?

- 1 Some people worked **harder** than everyone else.
- 2 They were the **best** in the class.
- 3 Let's look **more closely**.
- 4 This group is **better** than the other one.
- 5 The **most gifted** students practised for over 10,000 hours.
- 6 Those students played the **least**.
- 7 She writes the **fastest**.
- 8 Pop songs are **easier** to play than classical pieces.

1b Look at the sentences again. Which contain adjectives and which contain adverbs?

GRAMMAR REFERENCE ► page 54

2 Complete the table below and then, with your partner, explain the rules for the different groups of adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
long		
slow		
big		
thin		
friendly		
tidy		
ambitious		
hard-working		
good		
bad		
far		<i>the farthest/the furthest</i>
little (determiner)	<i>less</i>	

For one-syllable adjectives, add *-er* to make the comparative.

3 Match the rules for comparative and superlative adverbs 1–3 to the examples a–c.

- 1 We usually make comparative and superlative adverbs with *more* and *the most*.
  - 2 With some adverbs we add *-er* and *the -est*.
  - 3 Some adverbs are irregular.
- a well, bad, little  
b carefully, quietly, easily, beautifully, often  
c fast, hard, early, late, long, soon, near

4 Rewrite the sentences using comparative and superlative forms.

- 1 In my opinion, Caleb is the friendlier person in this class.
- 2 I think Emma is slightly taller than Claire.
- 3 That is definitely the most silly thing I've heard today!
- 4 You can write much quicker on a computer than by hand.
- 5 Sorry I couldn't come more soon.
- 6 Is it much more further to your house?
- 7 You need to try more hardly if you want to be a professional musician.
- 8 Michael Jackson was one of the more famous performers in the world.
- 9 That film was terrible! It's the less interesting film I've ever seen.
- 10 She did more well than me in the test.

5a **SPEAKING** Work with a partner and decide who in your class ...

- 1 talks the fastest.
- 2 shouts the loudest.
- 3 speaks the most quietly.
- 4 draws the best.
- 5 runs the most quickly.
- 6 arrives the earliest.
- 7 writes the most neatly.
- 8 laughs the most often.

5b Say one of the names you chose in 5a. Can your classmates guess the description?

### GRAMMAR GUIDE

#### Other ways of making comparisons

6 Look at the sentences and answer the questions a–c.

- 1 They worked **as** hard **as** the members of the other group.
  - 2 People in the second group were **not as** good **as** the stars.
  - 3 Maybe they were **less** gifted **than** the other violinists.
  - 4 He was **not so** old **as** the other people in his class.
  - 5 **The longer** you practise, **the better** you get.
  - 6 **The earlier** you start, **the easier** it is.
- a When do we use *as ... as*?  
b When do we use *not as ... as*, *not so ... as*, or *less ... than*?  
c When do we use the structure in sentences 5 and 6?

GRAMMAR REFERENCE ► page 54



## ► Developing vocabulary

### Noun suffixes

- 1 Look at these words. Each one contains a noun suffix. Which of the nouns are people?

ability appearance difference  
improvement investigation madness  
musician performer professor  
violinist

- 2 Look at these words. Change them into nouns, or a different type of noun, using the suffixes below. You may need to change the spelling. Sometimes you can make more than one noun from each word.

act confident create educate  
electric employ happy invent  
relevant science

-ity	-ness
-ance	-ian
-ence	-er
-ment	-or actor, creator
-ion	-ist

- 3 Read the text below. Complete the text with words related to the words given.

### ► EXAM SUCCESS

In this type of exercise, sometimes you need to add a prefix or a suffix or both. Sometimes the word needs to be plural. Look at the context carefully to decide. **EXAM SUCCESS ► page 150**

Sometimes you can get the impression that (a) \_\_\_\_\_ today spend all their time just improving high-tech toys and mobile phones. But just think of the (b) \_\_\_\_\_ of some of the biggest inventions of the past. Take (c) \_\_\_\_\_, for example, or, more specifically, the electric light bulb. The (d) \_\_\_\_\_ of the light bulb is one of the key moments in human progress. Its (e) \_\_\_\_\_ was Thomas Edison. Edison's biggest skill was to take another person's idea and make (f) \_\_\_\_\_ to it. Electric light bulbs meant the (g) \_\_\_\_\_ of gas lighting, which was not the safest form of illumination. Before gas light and electric light, the (h) \_\_\_\_\_ had made jobs and leisure activities difficult or impossible at night. Edison gave people the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ to see all day long. What a (j) \_\_\_\_\_ that made to our world.

SCIENCE

IMPORTANT

ELECTRIC

CREATE

INVENT

IMPROVE  
APPEAR

DARK

ABLE

DIFFERENT

- 7 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words.

1 Paul enjoys surfing the net as much as playing computer games.  
**ENJOYABLE**

For Paul, surfing the net \_\_\_\_\_ computer games.

2 Eating fruit and vegetables is healthier than eating fast food.

**LESS**

Eating fast food \_\_\_\_\_ eating fruit and vegetables.

3 When you walk at a higher speed, you get more tired.

**FASTER**

The \_\_\_\_\_ more tired you get.

4 Mick thinks judo is better than karate.

**NOT**

For Mick, karate \_\_\_\_\_ judo.

5 Olivia is quick when she writes, and so is Cathy.

**AS**

Cathy writes \_\_\_\_\_ Olivia.

6 When you run far, you become healthier.

**THE**

The \_\_\_\_\_ you become.

7 Chinese is much harder to write than English.

**DIFFICULT**

English is \_\_\_\_\_ than Chinese.

8 Basketball becomes easier depending on your height.

**TALLER**

The \_\_\_\_\_ basketball becomes.

- 8 Match the halves of these common expressions. When do we use the expressions?

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 The sooner             | a than done.            |
| 2 Better late            | b to worse.             |
| 3 Easier said            | c than never.           |
| 4 Better to be safe      | d the harder they fall. |
| 5 The more               | e the merrier.          |
| 6 This is going from bad | f the better.           |
| 7 The bigger they are    | g than sorry.           |

Join the party, Sally.  
The more the merrier!

