

Comparativos y superlativos

Comparative statements

English speakers make comparisons by adding the ending **-er** to an adjective (ie: warmer) or by using the words more or less with an adjective (ie: more interesting). Spanish speakers make comparisons in the following manner.

Comparisons of inequality

Use **más** (more) OR **menos** (less) before an adjective, adverb or a noun and use **que** (than) after it.

- **más** adjective, adverb or a noun **que** – more _____ than
- **menos** adjective, adverb or a noun **que** – less _____ than

Use **más que** (more than) or **menos que** (less than) after a verb form.

Paco estudia **más que** tú. *Paco studies **more than** you.*

Use the preposition **de** (than) before a number.

Ella tiene **más de** ocho clases. *She has **more than** eight classes.*

Irregular comparatives

- **mejor(es) que** – better than
- **peor(es) que** – worse than
- **mayor(es) que** – older than
- **menor(es) que** – younger than

PRÁCTICA

1. Elena tiene _____ María. *Elena is **less hungry than** María.*
2. Nosotros tenemos _____ Hugo. *We are **more thirsty than** Hugo.*
3. La pizza está _____ la sopa. *The pizza is **hotter than** the soup.*
4. Él come _____ yo. *He eats **less than** I.*
5. Ustedes conocen _____ cuatro personas. *You all know **more than** four people.*
6. La sra. Green es _____ su esposo. *Mrs. Green is **younger than** her husband.*
7. Tenemos _____ veinte exámenes. *We have **fewer than** twenty tests.*

Comparisons of equality

Use **tan** (as) before an adjective or an adverb and **como** (as) after it.

- **tan** adjective or adverb **como** – as _____ as

*Note that **tan** can also be used by itself to show a great degree of a given quality; for example, ¡Qué clase **tan** interesante! *What an interesting class!*

Use **tanto(a)** (as much) or **tantos(as)** (as many) before a noun and **como** (as) after it.

- **tanto(a)** noun **como** – as much _____ as
- **tantos(as)** noun **como** – as many _____ as

*Note that **tanto(s)/tanta(s)** can also be used without **como** to show a great amount of something; for example, ¡Hace tanto calor! *It's so hot!*

One can change a comparison of equality to one of inequality by using the word **no** before a verb.

No hace **tanto** calor en Kansas City **como** en Arizona. *It is **not as hot** in KC **as** in Arizona.*

To make comparisons of equality with verbs, use **tanto como** after the verb, followed by the person (or pronoun) that is being compared to the subject. Tú estudias **tanto como** yo. *You study **as much as** I.*

PRÁCTICA

8. A veces hace _____ en KC _____ Arizona. *Sometimes it's **as hot** in KC **as** in Arizona.*
9. Hoy, María tiene _____ Elena. *Today, María is **as hungry as** Elena.*
10. El helado está _____ el té. *The ice cream is **as cold as** the tea.*
11. Mi sandwich está _____ tu ensalada. *My sandwich is **as delicious as** your salad.*
12. Jimmy come _____ la sra. Green. *Jimmy eats **as much as** Mrs. Green.*

Superlative statements

English speakers single out someone or something from a group by adding the ending –est to an adjective (ie: warm**est**) or by using the phrases the most or the least with an adjective (ie: the most expensive).

Spanish speakers form superlatives by using a definite article before the person or thing being compared + **más** (most) or **menos** (least) + adjective. To say ...in the class/world/city, etc.), the preposition **de** + noun is used.

el }
la }
los } (noun) **más/menos** (adjective) (de + noun)
las }

Yo tengo...

la maestra **más** simpática...
y la clase **menos** aburrida...

de la escuela y del mundo.

I have...

*the nicest teacher...
and the least boring class...*

in the school and in the world.

Irregular superlatives

- el/la/los/las **mejor(es)** – the best
- el/la/los/las **peor(es)** – the worst
- el/la/los/las **mayor(es)** – the oldest
- el/la/los/las **menor(es)** – the youngest

PRÁCTICA

13. La señora Green es la maestra _____ simpática.

*Mrs. Green is the **nicest** teacher.*

14. Jaime es el hombre _____ viejo de la familia.

*Jaime is the **oldest** in the family.*

15. La historia es la clase _____ aburrida de la escuela.

*History is the **most** boring class in the school.*

16. Los Royals son _____ de béisbol.

*The Royals are **the best** in baseball.*

Ahora, escribe el opuesto en español.

17. mejor _____

18. menos _____

19. más _____

20. mayor _____

21. peor _____

22. menor _____