

1 You use the with a superlative adjective and a noun:

It's **the best** film I've ever seen. Which is **the biggest** city in the world? I was **the youngest** child in my family.

You often use the expression *one of the ... -est ...* :

Liverpool is **one of the biggest** cities in Britain.

You often use a possessive with the superlative:

Jack is **one of my oldest** friends. This is London's **oldest** theatre.

2 When you are comparing two things you can use a comparative adjective with than:

English is **more useful** than Latin. Tokyo is **bigger** than London.

3 You can use adverbs of degree with comparative adjectives:

slightly a bit not much a lot far much

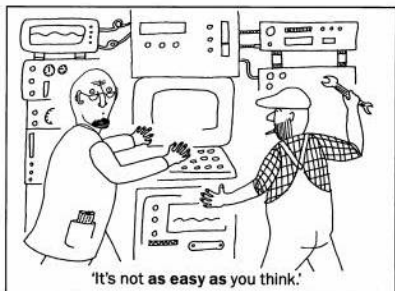
This pullover is **much nicer** than that one, and it's a bit cheaper too.

I'm coming home soon. I won't be **much longer**.

4 You can use as ... as ... to show that two things are similar in some way:

Their house is **as small** as ours. I'm **as tired** as you are.

You can use **not as ... as ...** to show that two things are different in some way:

**5 When two things are alike in some way you say one is the same as the other:**

Your car is quite old. It's **the same** as ours. This book is **the same** as mine.

He's very funny – just **the same** as his brother.

6 When two things are the same you can use the words just or exactly:

I'm **just as pleased** as you are. They are **just as bad** as when they were children.

7 When two things are almost the same you can use the words nearly, almost, or not quite:

It's **nearly as hot** as it was yesterday. This one is **not quite as good** as that.

A Look at the pictures and complete sentences about Tom, Helen, Anne and Bill:

1 Bill is as tall as Helen, but he isn't as tall as Tom.

2 Tom is a bit taller than _____ and _____, and much taller than _____.

3 Helen is just as tall as _____, but she isn't as heavy as he is.

4 Bill is a bit younger than _____ and much younger than _____ and _____.

5 Both _____ and _____ are younger than Helen.

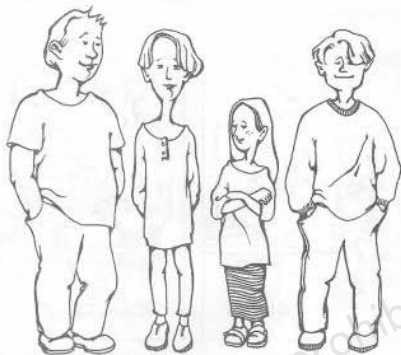
6 _____ is the oldest and _____ is the youngest.

7 _____ isn't quite as old as _____.

8 _____ is as tall as _____, but she isn't as tall as _____.

9 _____ is just a bit older than _____ but he's much heavier than she is.

10 _____ is the youngest but _____ is the lightest.



Tom
20

Helen
19

Anne
14

Bill
12

B Rewrite these sentences using a superlative adjective:

1 I have never seen such a big dog before. It's the biggest dog I have ever seen.

2 I have never met such a nice person. She's

3 They had never heard such a funny story. It was

4 Mary had never read such a good book. It was

C Write sentences like these about people and places you know:

1 London is a much bigger city than Leeds. 1 _____

2 Peter is a bit taller than Fred. 2 _____

3 Oxford is an older city than Birmingham. 3 _____

4 Emma is much older than her sister. 4 _____

D Can you answer these questions?

1 What is the commonest word in English? _____

2 What is the highest mountain in the world? _____

3 What is the longest river in the world? _____

4 What is the biggest city in your country? _____

Close your books and ask a friend these questions.