

Comparison (3) – as . . . as / than

A

Study this example situation:



Sarah, Eric, and David are all millionaires. They are all very rich. Sarah has \$10 million, Eric has \$8 million, and David has \$2 million. So:

Eric is rich.
He is **richer than** David.
But he isn't **as rich as** Sarah. (= Sarah is richer than he is.)

Some more examples of **not as . . . (as)**:

- Tom isn't as old as he looks. (= he looks older than he is)
- The shopping mall wasn't as crowded as usual. (= it is usually more crowded)
- Jenny didn't do as well on the exam as she had hoped. (= she had hoped to do better)
- "The weather is better today, isn't it?" "Yes, it's not as cold." (= yesterday was colder)
- I don't know as many people as you do. (= you know more people)

You can also say "not so . . . (as)":

- It's not warm, but it isn't so cold as yesterday. (= it isn't as cold as yesterday)

Less . . . (than) is similar to **not as . . . (as)**:

- I spent less money than you. (= I didn't spend as much money as you)
- The shopping mall was less crowded than usual. (= it wasn't as crowded as usual)

B

You can use **as . . . as** (*but not so . . . as*) in positive sentences and questions:

- I'm sorry I'm late. I got here as fast as I could.
- There's plenty of food. You can have as much as you want.
- Let's walk. It's just as quick as taking the bus.
- Can you send me the money as soon as possible, please?

Also: **twice as . . . as**, **three times as . . . as**, etc.:

- Gas is twice as expensive as it was a few years ago.
- Their house is about three times as big as ours.

C

We say **the same as** (*not the same like*):

- Ann's salary is the same as mine. *or* Ann makes the same salary as me.
- Tom is the same age as Brian.
- "What would you like to drink?" "I'll have the same as you."

D

We usually say:

- You are older than me. (*not* than I)
- He isn't as popular as her. (*not* as she)

After **than/as** it is more usual to say **me/him/her/them/us** when there is no verb. Compare:

- You are taller than I am. *but* You are taller than me.
- They have more money than we do. *but* They have more money than us.
- I can't run as fast as he can. *but* I can't run as fast as him.

Exercises

103.1 Complete the sentences using *as . . . as*.

- I'm pretty tall, but you are taller. I'm not *as tall as you* _____.
- My salary is high, but yours is higher. My salary isn't _____.
- You know a little bit about cars, but I know more.
You don't _____.
- I still feel a little tired, but I felt a lot more tired yesterday.
I don't _____.
- They've lived here quite a while, but we've lived here longer.
They haven't _____.
- I was a little nervous before the interview, but usually I'm a lot more nervous.
I wasn't _____.

103.2 Rewrite these sentences so that they have the same meaning.

- Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't *as old as he looks* _____.
- I didn't spend as much money as you. You *spent more money than me* _____.
- The station was nearer than I thought. The station wasn't _____.
- I go out less than I used to. I don't _____.
- Her hair isn't as long as it used to be. She used to _____.
- I know them better than you do. You don't _____.
- There were fewer people at this meeting than at the last one.
There weren't _____.

103.3 Complete the sentences using *as . . . as*. Choose one of the following:

bad comfortable experienced fast long often soon well

- I'm sorry I'm late. I got here *as fast as* _____ I could.
- It was a hard question. I answered it _____ I could.
- "How long can I stay with you?" "You can stay _____ you like."
- I need the information quickly, so please let me know _____ possible.
- I like to stay in shape, so I go swimming _____ I can.

In the following sentences use *just as . . . as*.

- I'm going to sleep on the floor. It's _____ sleeping in that hard bed.
- Why did he get the job rather than me? I'm _____ him.
- At first I thought he was nice, but he's really _____ everybody else.

103.4 Write sentences using *the same as*.

- Sally and Kate are both 22 years old. Sally is *the same age as Kate* _____.
- You and I both have dark brown hair. Your hair _____.
- I arrived at 10:25 and so did you. I _____.
- My birthday is April 5. Tom's birthday is April 5, too. My _____.

103.5 Complete the sentences with *than . . .* or *as . . .*

- I can't reach as high as you. You are taller *than me* _____.
- He doesn't know much. I know more _____.
- I don't work particularly hard. Most people work as hard _____.
- We were very surprised. Nobody was more surprised _____.
- She's not a very good player. I'm a better player _____.
- They've been very lucky. I wish we were as lucky _____.