



Comparative excellence

Mastering English for comparison

November 15th, 2024

Outline

The Same or Different?

The same as...
Different to...

Comparing Quantity

More
Less
Fewer

Comparatives & Superlatives

Good, better, the best

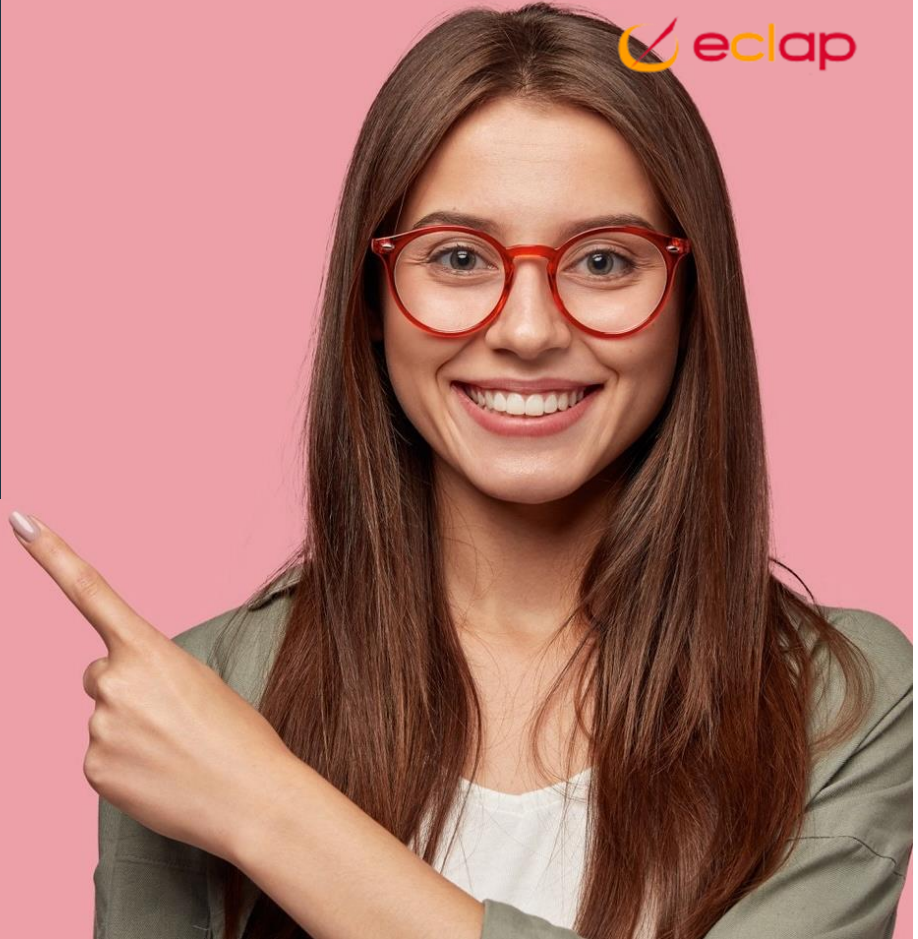
As...As...

Rather & Prefer

Idioms & Expressions

Common Expressions with
comparison structures

The Same or Different?



$$3 + 3 = 7 - 1$$

$$2 \times 5 = 50 / 5$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = 50\%$$

$$\frac{1}{3} = 33.33\%$$

$$1.67 \text{ km} = 1 \text{ mile}$$

$$1 \text{ kg} = 2.2 \text{ lbs}$$

WE SAY:

the same **as**

different **to**

stairs ≠ steps

famous ≠ notorious

Important ≠ significant

fun ≠ funny

until now ≠ so far

episode ≠ chapter

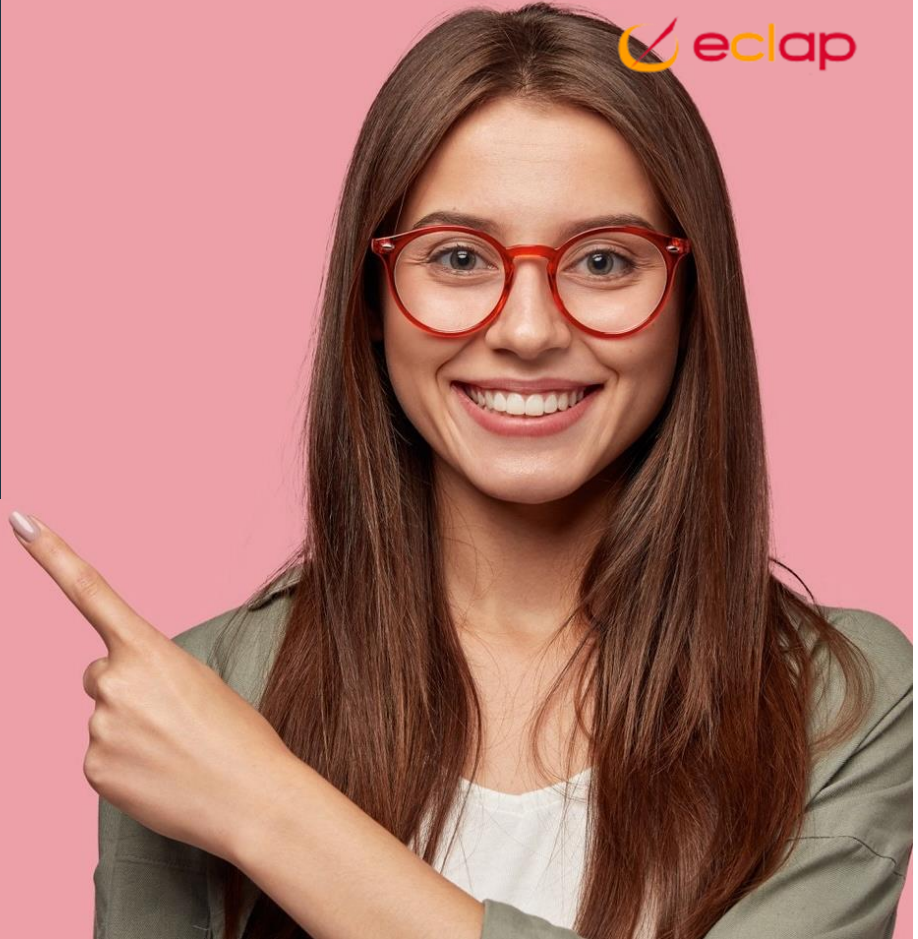
WE SAY:

the same **as**

different **to**

More or Less

Comparisons of
quantity







Grammar

More + un/countable nouns + than

Harris spent **more money than** Trump

More people voted for Trump **than** Harris

Fewer + countable nouns + than

Fewer celebrities endorsed Trump **than** Harris

Less + uncountable noun + than

Harris had **less time** to prepare **than** Trump

More/Less + adjective + than

Trump is **more well-known than** Harris

Harris is **less famous than** Trump

English Help from Elvis

conversation (conversación)

action (acción)

bite (sustancia)

bark (ladrido)

fight (pelea)

spark (chispa)

What does Elvis want more of in his relationship?

What does he want less of?

A Little Less Conversation

A little less conversation

A little more action, please

All this aggravation ain't satisfactioning me

A little more bite and a little less bark

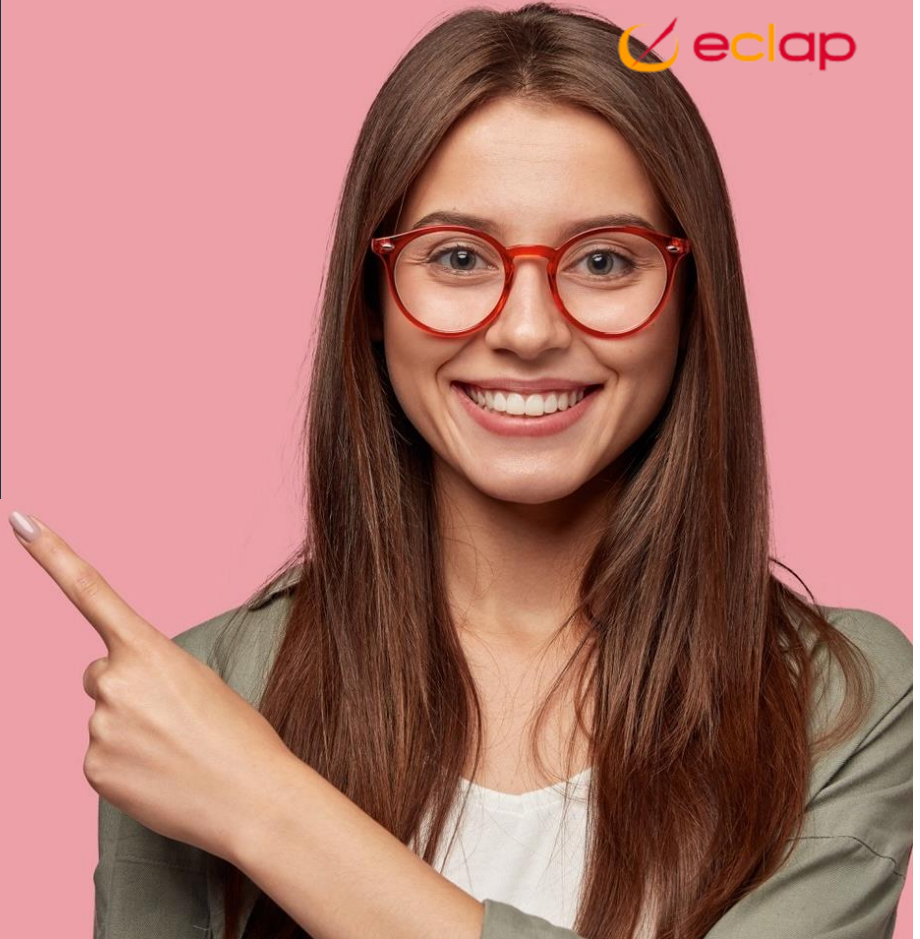
A little less fight and a little more spark

Close your mouth and open up your heart

And, baby, satisfy me

Satisfy me, baby

Increasingly...



cada vez más
=
more and more

cada vez menos

=

**less and less /
fewer and fewer**

Spanish

- Cada vez menos gobiernos están invirtiendo en educación pública
- Cada vez menos personas confían en los partidos tradicionales
- La libertad de prensa está siendo cada vez menos respetada

English



- Fewer and fewer governments are investing in public education
- Fewer and fewer people trust traditional political parties
- Press freedom is being respected less and less

Kaiser Chiefs 2005

more and more

Everyday I love you....

fewer and fewer

less and less

UK vs. Spain





Reino Unido es...

- más pequeño
- más nublado / nebuloso / lluviosa
- más urbano / edificado
- más caro
- más al norte

que España

¿Reino Unido es mejor que España? ¿O peor?



United Kingdom is...

- smaller
- cloudier / foggier / rainier
- more urban / more built up
- more expensive
- further north

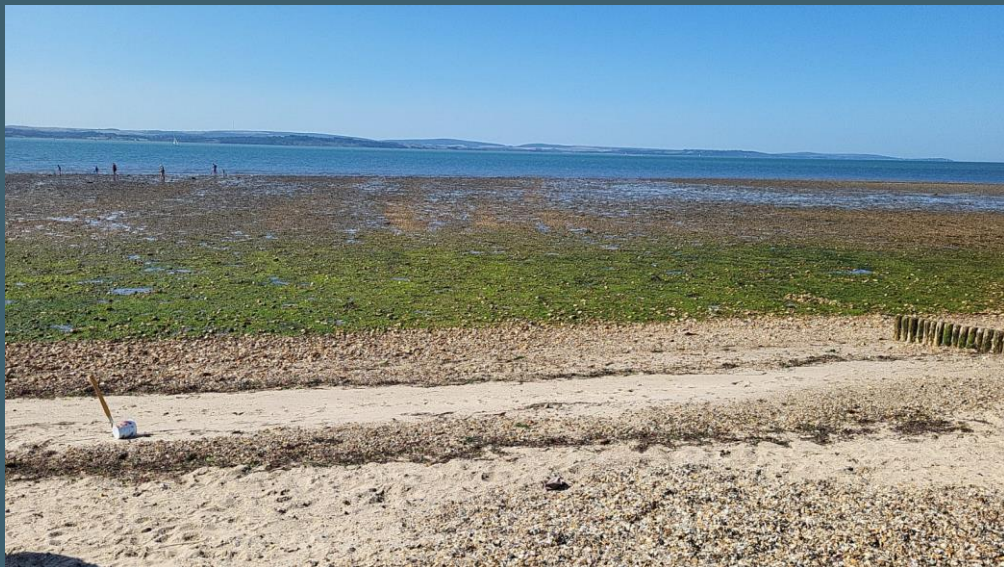
than Spain

Is the UK better than Spain? ¿O peor?



Rule	<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Comparative</u>
1 <u>syllable</u>	<u>small</u> , <u>old</u>	<u>smaller (than)</u> <u>older (than)</u>
2 syllables ends in y , <u>er</u> , ow	foggy, clever, narrow	foggier (than) cleverer (than) narrower (than)
2 syllables doesn't end in y, <u>er</u> , ow	modern, polite, careful	more modern (than) more polite (than) more careful (than)
3 syllables or more	expensive, difficult	more expensive (than) more difficult (than)
Exceptions	good, bad, far, fun	better worse further more fun

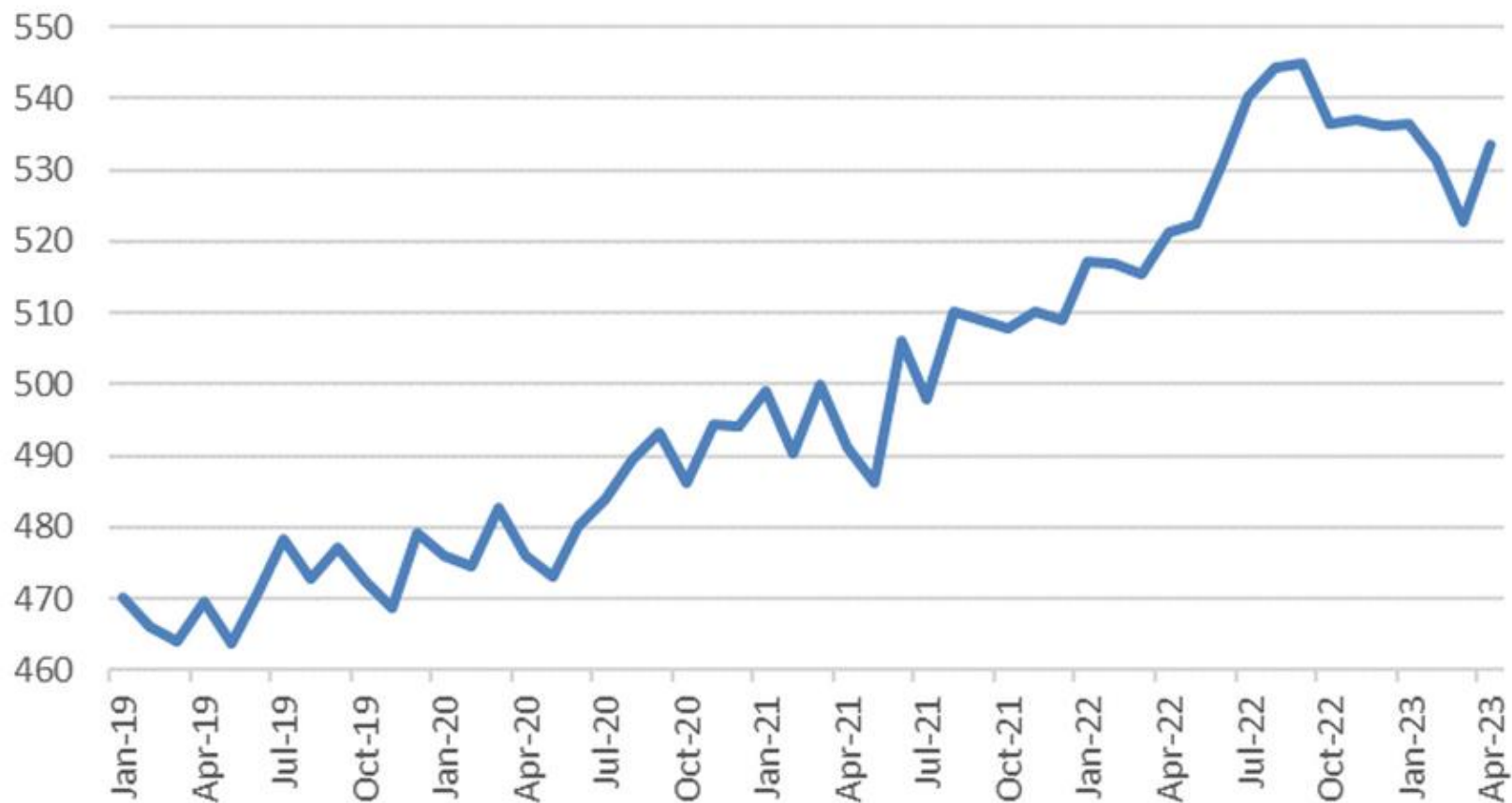






London: Average House Prices (£'000)

twindig



Source: Land Registry

Stronger

Kelly Clarkson

How many
comparatives can you
hear?



You know the bed feels
warmer

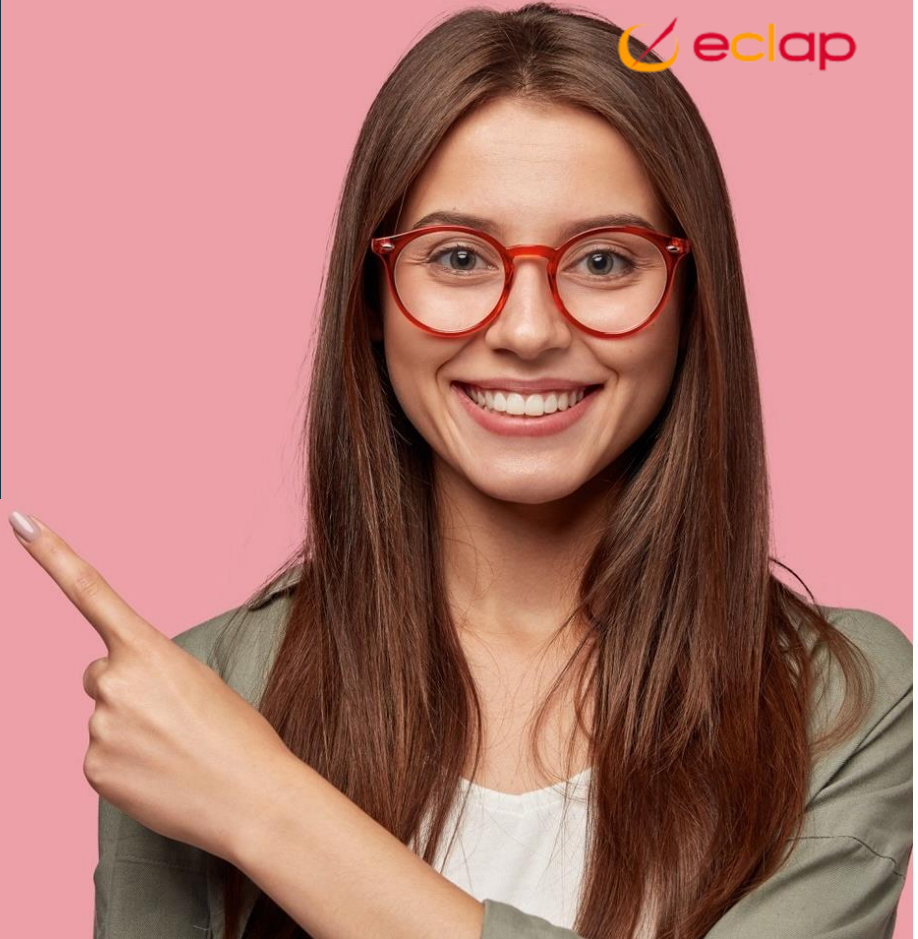
What doesn't kill you
makes you **stronger**

Stand a little **taller**

Footsteps even **lighter**



The more...the
more...



The more...the more...

Cuanto más gano, más gasto

The more I earn, the more I spend

Cuanto más aprendes, más olvidad

The more you learn, the more you forget

Cuanto más tiempo paso en las redes sociales, peor me siento

The more time I spend on social media, the worse I feel

Cuanto más intento comer saludable, más me llama la pizza

The more healthily I try to eat, the more pizza calls my name

Cuanto más bebo, más guapo te vuelves

The more I drink, the more handsome you look

Cuanto más aprendo sobre personas, más amo a mi perro

The more I learn about people, the more I love my dog

Superlatives





Rule	<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
1 <u>syllable</u>	<u>small</u> , <u>old</u>	<u>the smallest</u> <u>the oldest</u>
2 syllables ends in y , <u>er</u> , ow	foggy, clever, narrow	the foggiest the cleverest the narrowest
2 syllables doesn't end in y, <u>er</u> , ow	modern, polite, careful	the most modern the most polite the most careful
3 syllables or more	expensive, difficult	the most expensive the most difficult
Exceptions	good, bad, far, fun	the best the worst the furthest the most fun



Question 1

What is **the more visited / most visited** city in the world?

- a) Paris
- ☒ b) Bangkok
- c) New York
- d) Shanghai

Question 2

Which city has the world's **busiest** / **most busy** airport by passenger numbers?



- a) Atlanta, USA
- b) Beijing, China
- c) Dubai, UAE
- d) London, UK

Question 3

Which country has the **most long / longest** average life expectancy?

- a) Singapore
- b) Spain
- c) The USA
- ☒ d) Japan

Question 4

What is the **most popular / popularist** fruit in the world by consumption?

a) Apples

 b) Bananas

c) Grapes

d) Mangoes

Question 5

Which country is ranked as having **the worst / the worse** traffic congestion in the world?



- a) Bangkok, Thailand
- b) Mumbai, India
- c) Madrid, Spain
- d) Los Angeles, USA

Question 6

Which country has the **most high / the highest** wine production each year?

a) France



b) Italy

c) Spain

d) United States

Question 7

What is the **most common / the commonest** fear or phobia among people?

- a) Heights
- b) Flying
- c) Clowns
- ☒ d) Spiders

Question 8

Which planet is **the furthest / the farrest** from the Sun in our solar system?

- ☒ a) Neptune
- b) Uranus
- c) Saturn
- d) Pluto

Question 9

Which country is the most narrow / narrowest?

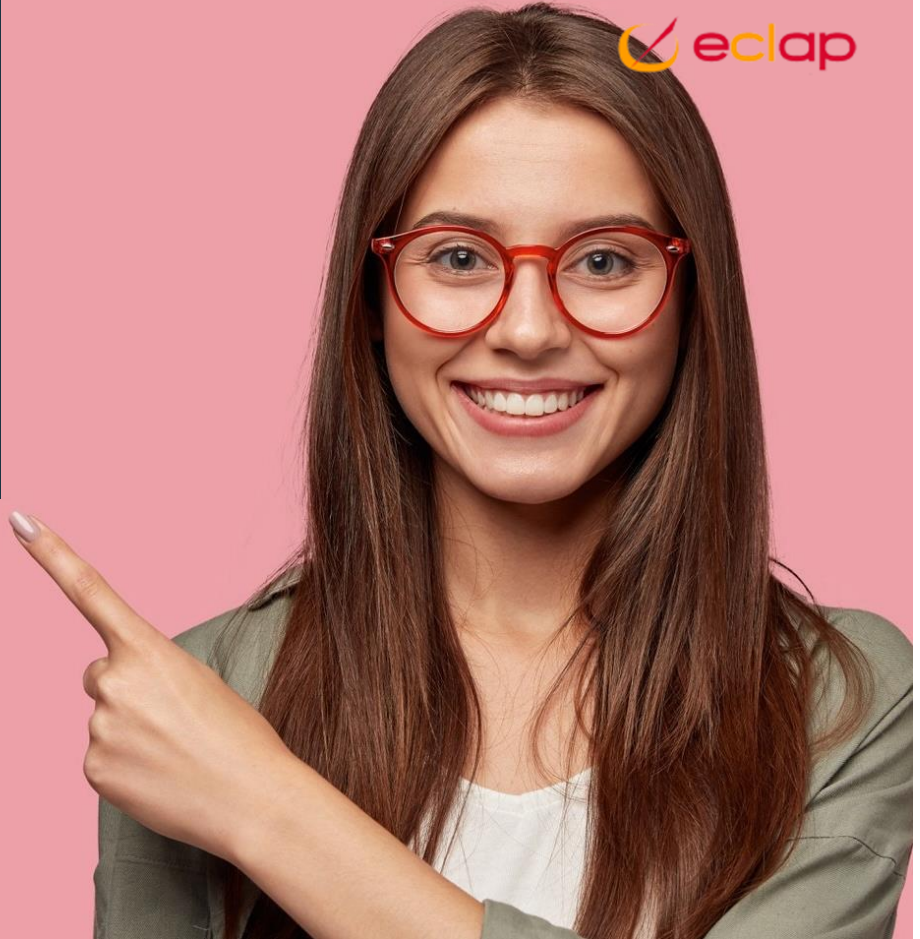
- a) Panama
- b) Vietnam
- ☒ c) Chile
- d) Norway

Question 10

Which city is ranked as having **the best / the better** quality of life in the world?

- a) Helsinki, Finland
- b) Chicago, Illinois
- ☒ c) Vienna, Austria
- d) Madrid, Spain

Like vs As



As + noun

= in the role of

As your English teacher, I will help you as much as I can

My sister works as a psychologist

Speaking as a parent, I think this is an important issue

Like + noun

= similar to

Like your English teacher, I will help you as much as I can

My sister works like a slave

They're acting like dictators

Like (not as)

- to compare two things
- to compare appearance or behaviour

~~She gets headaches as me~~

She gets headaches **like** me

~~His house looks as a castle~~

His house looks **like** a castle

Like & As

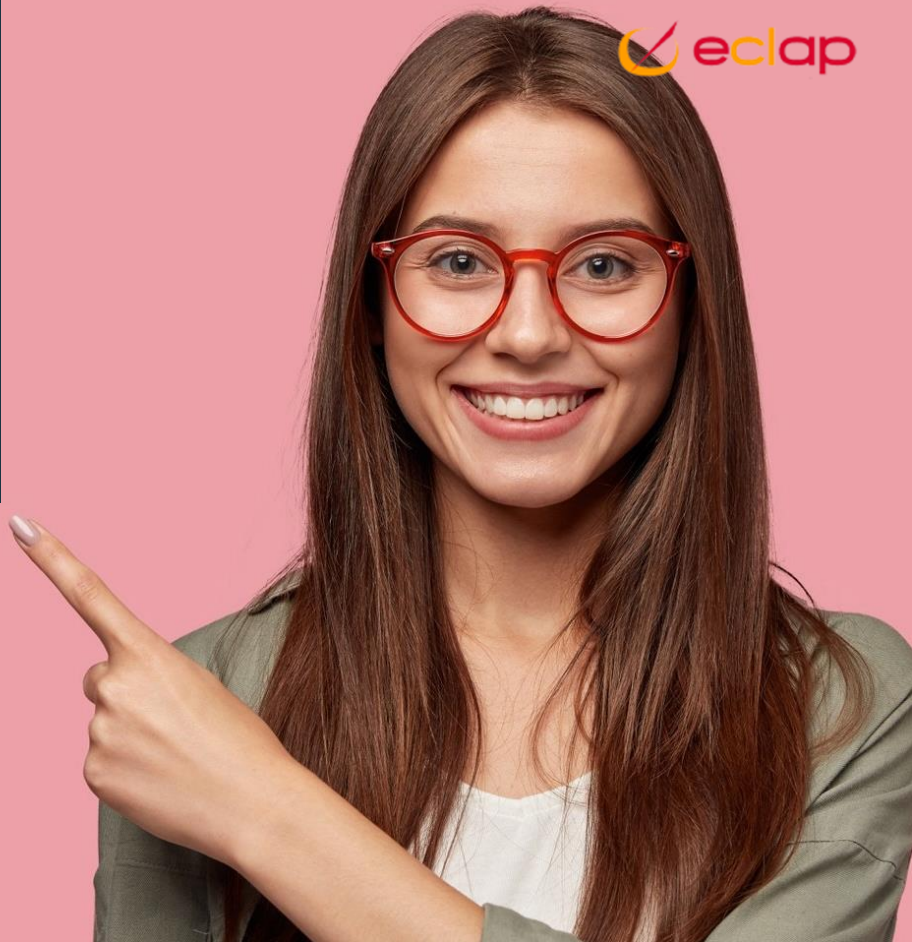
The conjunctions **like** and **as**
have the same meaning
when used in comparisons

Nobody understands him **as** I do
Nobody understands him **like** I do











It's **as** we thought
It's **like** we thought

As...As...

Tan...como...



Top ten positions

City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & Environment		Education	Infrastructure
Vienna	 Austria	1	98.4	100.0	100.0		93.5	100.0	100.0
Copenhagen	 Denmark	2	98.0	100.0	95.8		95.4	100.0	100.0
Zurich	 Switzerland	3	97.1	95.0	100.0		96.3	100.0	96.4
Melbourne	 Australia	4	97.0	95.0	100.0		95.8	100.0	96.4
Calgary	 Canada	5	96.8	100.0	100.0		90.0	100.0	96.4
Geneva	 Switzerland	5	96.8	95.0	100.0		94.9	100.0	96.4
Sydney	 Australia	7	96.6	95.0	100.0		94.4	100.0	96.4
Vancouver	 Canada	7	96.6	95.0	100.0		97.2	100.0	92.9
Osaka	 Japan	9	96.0	100.0	100.0		86.8	100.0	96.4
Auckland	 New Zealand	9	96.0	95.0	95.8		97.9	100.0	92.9

Source: EIU.

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1. Calgary is **as** liveable **as** Geneva

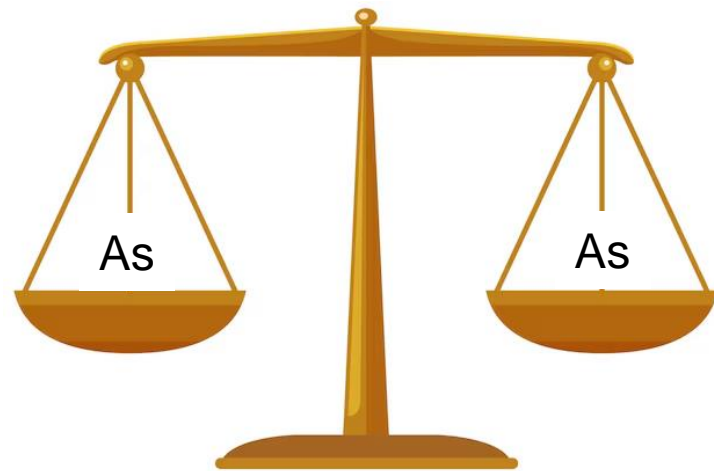
(as...adjective...as....)

2. Vancouver isn't **as** stable **as** Vienna

(as...adjective...as....)

3. You can't eat outside in Vienna **as** often **as** in Madrid

(as...adverb...as....)



Common "as...as...." expressions



1. ...as soon as possible

...lo antes posible

2. ...as often as possible...

Tan a menudo como sea posible...

3. As far as I know...

Que yo sepa.....

4. As far as I can tell...

Que yo sepa.....

5. As far as I'm concerned...

En lo que a mí respecta...

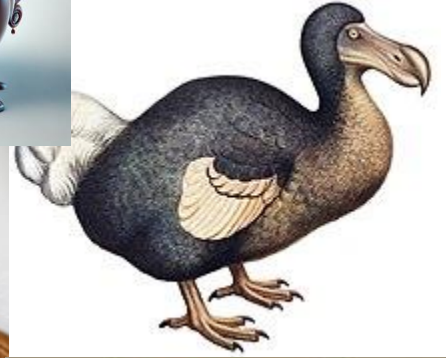
6. ...As well as...

además de

1. As good as



2. As dead as a



3. As happy as a



4. As easy as...



5. As useful as a

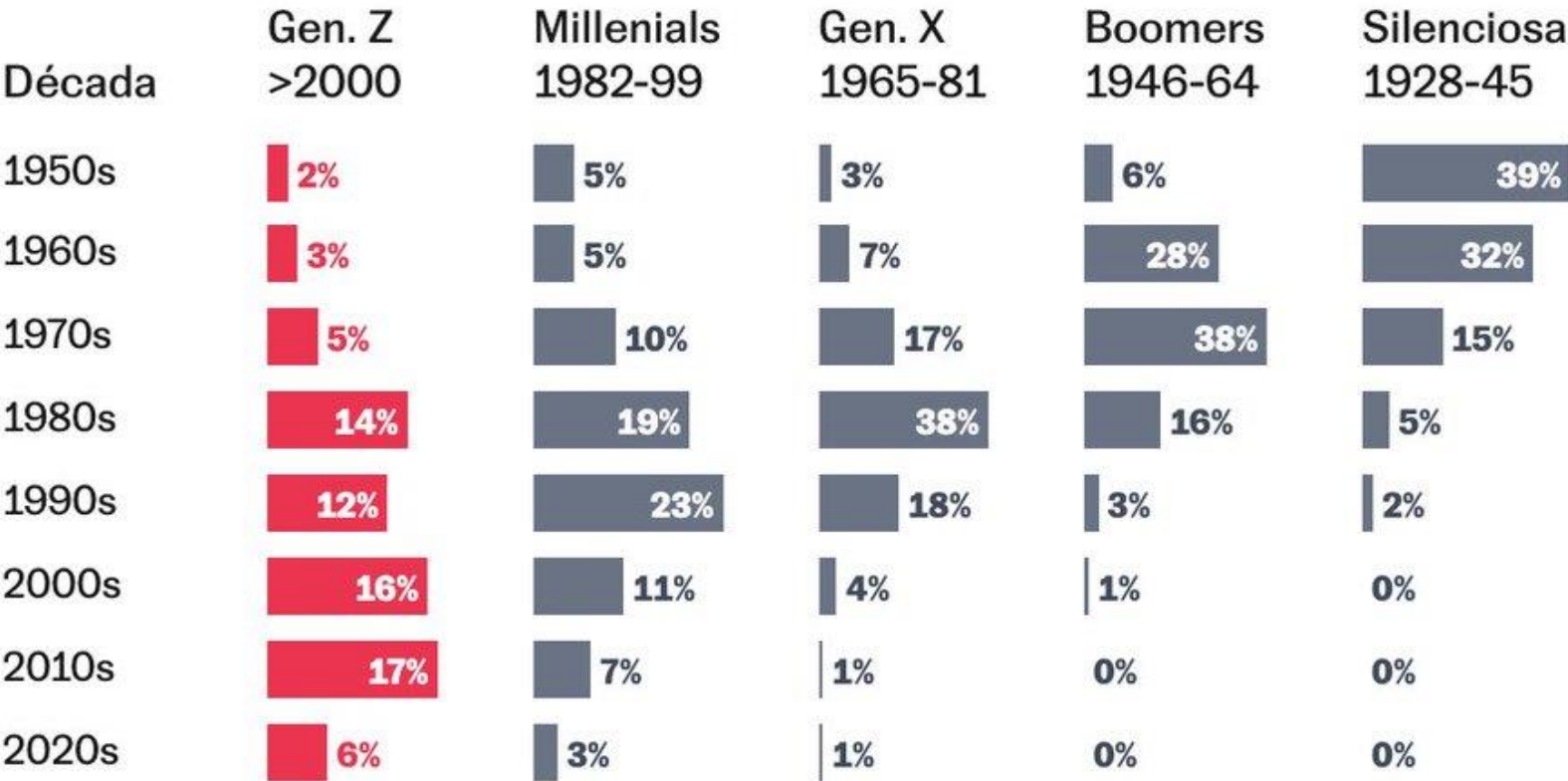


6. As high as a

Time for a poll



Which of the following decades do you think has the best music?



Graph from El Pais, 2024

Gen X **prefer** music from the 80s **to** music from the 70s.

Gen X prefer **listening** to music from the 80s **to listening** to music from the 70s.

or

Gen X prefer **listening** to music from the 80s **rather than listening** to music from the 70s.

Gen X prefer **to listen** to music from the 80s **rather than listen** to music from the 70s.

Prefer something	to something else
Prefer doing something	to doing something else rather than (doing) something else
Prefer to do something	Rather than (do) something else

Gen X **would rather** listen to music from the 80s **than** listen to music from the 70s.

I'd **rather** listen to music from the 90s **than** music from the 80s

I'd **rather not** listen to music from the 70s.

Prefer something	to something else
Prefer doing something	to doing something else rather than (doing) something else
Prefer to do something	Rather than (do) something else



El Condor Pasa Simon and Garfunkel

1970

I'd rather be....



Snail

OR



Sparrow



Hammer

Nail



← Street

Forest ↓

OR





Snail vs Sparrow

Hammer vs Nail

Street vs Forest

I'd rather be....



**I'd rather be a sparrow
than a snail**

**I'd rather be a hammer
than a nail**

**I'd rather be a forest
than a street**

I'd rather be....

1. Would you rather have a small apartment in central Madrid, or a huge house in rural Extremadura?
2. Would you rather have the power to change the outcome of elections or football matches?
3. Would you rather speak English perfectly, or understand English perfectly?
4. Would you rather have telepathy or telekinesis?
5. Would you rather work long hours or work with difficult customers?
6. Would you rather be fluent in all languages, or master of every instrument?
7. Would you rather wear clown shoes every day or a clown wig every day?

Idioms that use Comparisons





**Better the devil
you know**
(than the devil
you don't know)



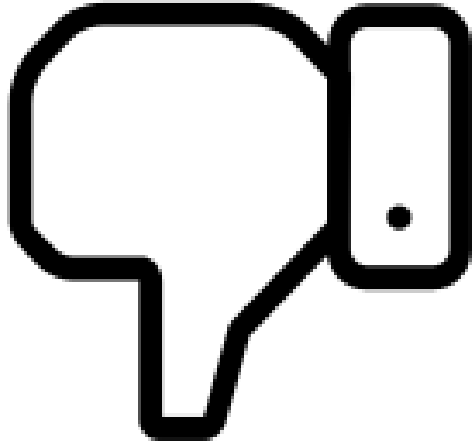
**Easier said
than done**



**I've got bigger
fish to fry**

**The best
thing since
sliced bread**



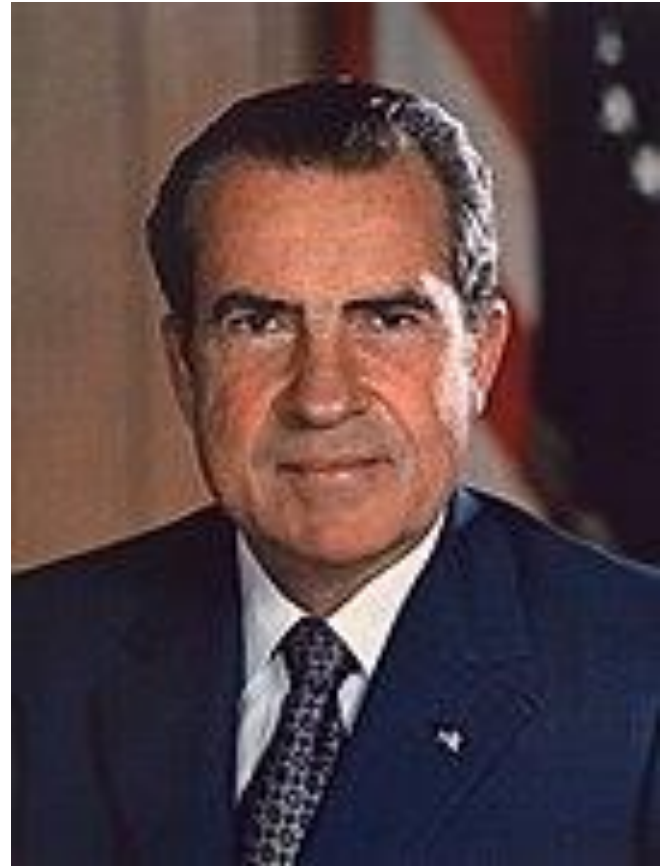


**To be your own
worst enemy**



The oldest trick in the book

**The bigger
they are, the
harder they fall**



Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?