

Modifying comparatives and superlatives

Common modifiers used with comparative adjectives are: **a great deal, much, far, very much, a lot, lots, any, no, rather, a little, a bit, slightly** and **even**.

Note that the modifier 'very' **cannot** be used with comparatives.

- She is _____ **older** than her husband. (*He is very young.*)
- She is _____ **dependable** than her brother. (*She is very sensible; he isn't.*)
- I'm _____ **happier** now. (*I was very depressed before.*)
- She is _____ **better** than him. (*They're as bad as each other.*)
- I would buy that watch if it was _____ **expensive**. (*just a bit cheaper*)
- She looks _____ **older** than her daughter. (*They look exactly the same age.*)
- She doesn't seem _____ **shorter** than me. (*We seem the same height.*)
- Her performance was _____ **worse** than her co-star's. (*He was bad, she was worse!*)
- She would have finished that job _____ **more quickly**. (*quite a lot*)
- She is _____ **less careful** than her sister. (*Her sister is very careful; she isn't at all!*)
- Their attitude was _____ **less enthusiastic**. (*just a bit*)

To modify superlatives, we can use words and expressions like **by far, quite, easily, just about**, etc.

- She is _____ **the most intelligent** of them all. (*a small difference*)
- She's _____ **the most** talented. (*a big difference*)
- She's _____ **the most** amazing person I know. (*a big difference*)
- This is _____ **the worst film** I've seen in ages. (*a big difference*)

Now write 8 sentences comparing your friends and family **using the modifiers**.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____

Modifying 'as...as...'

Common modifiers used with 'as.. as..' are: **not nearly, not anywhere near, nowhere near**, as well as **nearly, not quite** and **just**.

To show that there is a **big** difference, we can use the adverbs **not nearly** and **nowhere near / not anywhere near**.

- England **isn't** _____ **as big as** Russia. (*Russia is much bigger.*)
- He **is** _____ as good as I am! (*I am considerably better*)
- My shoes **didn't** cost _____ **as much as** yours. (*Your shoes cost much more than mine.*)

With a positive as...as structure, **nearly** shows a **small** difference.

- David is _____ **as tall as** Michael. (*Michael is only a little taller than David.*)

Compare this with the negative sentence:

- David **isn't nearly as tall as** Michael. (*Big difference*)

Quite is also used with a **negative** as...as structure to show a **small** difference.

- My flat isn't _____ **as big as** Jenny's. (*Jenny's flat is a little bigger.*)

Use **just** to emphasize that two things are the same.

- A: You're a terrible tennis player!
B: I'm _____ **as good as** you!

Now write 8 sentences comparing famous people **using the modifiers**.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____