

8.3

Comparisons Tutorial

ANTE TODO

Both Spanish and English use comparisons to indicate which of two people or things has a lesser, equal, or greater degree of a quality.

Comparisons

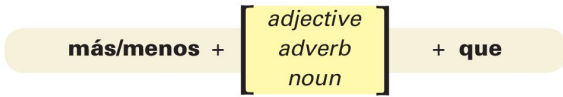
menos interesante
less interesting

más grande
bigger

tan sabroso como
as delicious as

Comparisons of inequality

- ▶ Comparisons of inequality are formed by placing **más** (*more*) or **menos** (*less*) before adjectives, adverbs, and nouns and **que** (*than*) after them.



- ▶ **¡Atención!** Note that while English has a comparative form for short adjectives (*taller*), such forms do not exist in Spanish (**más alto**).

adjectives

Los bistecs son **más caros que** el pollo. Estas uvas son **menos ricas que** esa pera.
Steaks are more expensive than chicken. *These grapes are less tasty than that pear.*

adverbs

Me acuesto **más tarde que** tú. Luis se despierta **menos temprano que** yo.
I go to bed later than you (do). *Luis wakes up less early than I (do).*

nouns

Juan prepara **más platos que** José. Susana come **menos carne que** Enrique.
Juan prepares more dishes than José (does). *Susana eats less meat than Enrique (does).*

La ensalada es menos cara que la sopa.



¿El pollo es más rico que el jamón?



- ▶ When the comparison involves a numerical expression, **de** is used before the number instead of **que**.

Hay más **de** cincuenta naranjas.
There are more than fifty oranges.

Llego en menos **de** diez minutos.
I'll be there in less than ten minutes.

- ▶ With verbs, this construction is used to make comparisons of inequality.



Mis hermanos **comen más que** yo.
My brothers eat more than I (do).

Arturo **duerme menos que** su padre.
Arturo sleeps less than his father (does).

Comparisons of equality

- This construction is used to make comparisons of equality.

tan + adjective
adverb + **como**

tanto/a(s) + singular noun
plural noun + **como**



- **¡Atención!** Note that unlike **tan**, **tanto** acts as an adjective and therefore agrees in number and gender with the noun it modifies.

Estas uvas son **tan ricas como** aquéllas. Yo probé **tantos platos como** él.
These grapes are as tasty as those ones (are). I tried as many dishes as he did.

- **Tan** and **tanto** can also be used for emphasis, rather than to compare, with these meanings: **tan so**, **tanto so much**, **tantos/as so many**.

¡Tu almuerzo es **tan** grande!
Your lunch is so big!

¡Comes **tantas** manzanas!
You eat so many apples!

¡Comes **tanto**!
You eat so much!

¡Preparan **tantos** platos!
They prepare so many dishes!

- Comparisons of equality with verbs are formed by placing **tanto como** after the verb. Note that in this construction **tanto** does not change in number or gender.

verb + **tanto como**

Tú viajas **tanto como** mi tía.
You travel as much as my aunt (does).

Ellos hablan **tanto como** mis hermanas.
They talk as much as my sisters.



Sabemos **tanto como** ustedes.
We know as much as you (do).



No estudio **tanto como** Felipe.
I don't study as much as Felipe (does).

Irregular comparisons

- Some adjectives have irregular comparative forms.

Irregular comparative forms			
Adjective	Comparative form		
bueno/a	<i>good</i>	mejor	<i>better</i>
malo/a	<i>bad</i>	peor	<i>worse</i>
grande	<i>grown, adult</i>	mayor	<i>older</i>
pequeño/a	<i>young</i>	menor	<i>younger</i>
joven	<i>young</i>	menor	<i>younger</i>
viejo/a	<i>old</i>	mayor	<i>older</i>

CONSULTA

To review how descriptive adjectives like **bueno**, **malo**, and **grande** are shortened before nouns, see **Estructura 3.1**, p. 90.

- When **grande** and **pequeño/a** refer to age, the irregular comparative forms, **mayor** and **menor**, are used. However, when these adjectives refer to size, the regular forms, **más grande** and **más pequeño/a**, are used.

Yo soy **menor** que tú.
I'm younger than you.

Pedí un plato **más pequeño**.
I ordered a smaller dish.



Nuestro hijo es **mayor** que el hijo de los Andrades.
Our son is older than the Andrades' son.



La ensalada de Isabel es **más grande** que ésta.
Isabel's salad is bigger than that one.

- The adverbs **bien** and **mal** have the same irregular comparative forms as the adjectives **bueno/a** and **malo/a**.

Julio nada **mejor** que los otros chicos.
Julio swims better than the other boys.

Elas cantan **peor** que las otras chicas.
They sing worse than the other girls.

recursos

WB
pp. 91–92

LM
p. 47

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Lección 8

¡INTÉNTALO!

Escribe el equivalente de las palabras en inglés.

- Ernesto mira más televisión que (*than*) Alberto.
- Tú eres _____ (*less*) simpático que Federico.
- La camarera sirve _____ (*as much*) carne como pescado.
- Recibo _____ (*more*) propinas que tú.
- No estudio _____ (*as much as*) tú.
- ¿Sabes jugar al tenis tan bien _____ (*as*) tu hermana?
- ¿Puedes beber _____ (*as many*) refrescos como yo?
- Mis amigos parecen _____ (*as*) simpáticos como ustedes.