

LES COMPARAISONS

En anglais scientifique, dans les compte-rendus d'expériences, on est souvent amené à établir des COMPARAISONS à l'aide d'adjectifs et/ou d'adverbes.

I. COMPARATIFS DES ADJECTIFS (On compare un élément [A] à un autre élément [B])

♦ COMPARATIFS DE SUPERIORITE => PLUS ... QUE ... (A>B)

| ADJECTIFS COURTS => <u>ADJ + ER + THAN</u> | | ADJ. LONGS => MORE + ADJ + THAN |
|--|--|--|
| 1 SYLLABE | 2 SYLLABES (TERMINAISONS EN -Y, -ER, -OW, -LE) | 2 SYLLABES (AUTRES TERMINAISONS) OU PLUS |
| ex: <i>short, tall, small, big*, high, low, young, old, nice, poor, rich, hot*, cold, etc...</i> | ex: <i>happy, funny, pretty, clever, narrow, noble, gentle, etc...</i> | ex: <i>expensive, dangerous, careful, etc...</i> |
| <i>Bob is shorter than Peter. A Cadillac is bigger*than a Mini.</i> | <i>Jane looks happier than Mary. A dog is cleverer than a mouse.</i> | <i>A car is more useful than a bike. Skiing is more dangerous than hiking.</i> |
| *remarque: redoublement de la consonne => une consonne finale précédée d'une seule voyelle | remarque: <i>common, handsome, polite, quiet</i> adjectifs courts ou longs (les 2 constructions | peuvent être considérés comme des sont possibles) |

♦ COMPARATIF D'EGALITE => AUSSI ... QUE ... (A=B)

AS + ADJECTIF + AS

| ADJECTIFS COURTS | ADJECTIFS LONGS |
|---|--|
| <i>Their garden is as nice as ours.</i> | <i>This street is as narrow as that one.</i> |
| | <i>A lion is as dangerous as a tiger.</i> |

♦ COMPARATIFS D'INFERIORITE => MOINS ... QUE ... / PAS AUSSI ... QUE ... (A<B)

LESS + ADJ + THAN / NOT AS + ADJ + AS
/ NOT SO + ADJ + AS

| ADJECTIFS COURTS D'UNE SYLLABE | ADJECTIFS COURTS DE DEUX SYLLABES | ADJECTIFS LONGS |
|---|---|---|
| ∅ | <i>Tom is less clever than Jim.</i> | <i>A flat is less expensive than a house.</i> |
| <i>His house is not as big as theirs. His house is not <u>so</u> big as theirs.</i> | <i>Tom is not as clever as Jim. Tom is not <u>so</u> clever as Jim.</i> | <i>A flat is not as expensive as a house. A flat is not <u>so</u> expensive as a house.</i> |

♦ DOUBLES COMPARATIFS => DE PLUS EN PLUS / DE MOINS EN MOINS

| de plus en plus ... | | |
|--|---|--|
| ADJECTIFS COURTS => | <u>ADJ + ER + AND + ADJ + ER</u> | ADJ. LONGS => MORE AND MORE + ADJ |
| <i>The temperature is getting higher and higher.</i> | <i>This girl is becoming prettier and prettier.</i> | <i>Houses are getting more and more expensive.</i> |
| de moins en moins ... | | |
| ADJECTIFS COURTS D'UNE SYLLABE | ADJECTIFS COURTS DE DEUX SYLLABES => LESS AND LESS + ADJ | ADJECTIFS LONGS => LESS AND LESS + ADJ |
| ∅ | <i>This girl is becoming less and less pretty.</i> | <i>Computers are less and less expensive.</i> |

Remarque: pour exprimer une progression parallèle on peut utiliser la construction suivante:

The nicer it is, the more expensive. => Plus c'est beau, plus c'est cher.
The more, the merrier. => Plus on est de fous, plus on rit.

◆ DEGRES DE COMPARAISON => BEAUCOUP PLUS / MOINS ... , UN PEU PLUS / MOINS ... , ETC ...

| EXPRESSION ADVERBIALE | COMPARATIF |
|---|--|
| <i>far / much / a little / slightly</i> | <i>cheaper / more expensive / less expensive</i> |

II. SUPERLATIFS DES ADJECTIFS (On compare un élément [A] à tous les autres)

◆ SUPERLATIFS DE SUPERIORITE => LE PLUS ... (A > TOUS LES AUTRES)

| ADJECTIFS COURTS => THE + ADJ + EST | ADJECTIFS LONGS => THE + MOST + ADJ |
|--|---|
| <i>La Paz is the highest capital <u>in</u> the world.</i> | <i>This is the prettiest dog I have ever seen.</i> |
| | <i>This winding road is the most dangerous.</i> |

◆ SUPERLATIF D'INFERIORITE => LE MOINS ... (A < TOUS LES AUTRES)

THE LEAST + ADJECTIF

| ADJECTIFS COURTS D'UNE SYLLABE | ADJ. COURTS DE DEUX SYLLABES | ADJECTIFS LONGS |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| ∅ | <i>He is the least funny comic I have ever heard.</i> | <i>This armchair is the least comfortable.</i> |

◆ COMPARATIF AU LIEU DU SUPERLATIF

Lorsqu'il n'existe que deux éléments de comparaison on remplace le superlatif par le comparatif.

ex: *The Browns have **two** sons. **The younger son** is also **the more intelligent**. But he isn't **the most intelligent boy** in his class.*
=> Les Brown ont deux fils. Le plus jeune (des deux) est aussi le plus intelligent. Mais il n'est pas le plus intelligent de sa classe.

III. COMPARATIFS ET SUPERLATIFS DE SUPERIORITE IRREGULIERS

| ADJECTIF | COMPARATIF | SUPERLATIF |
|--|---|--|
| <i>14 is a good mark.</i> | <i>18 is better than 14.</i> | <i>20 is the best mark.</i> |
| <i>5 is a bad mark.</i> | <i>1 is worse than 5.</i> | <i>0 is the worst mark.</i> |
| <i>London is far from Metz.</i> | <i>Vancouver is farther than London. further than</i> | <i>Melbourne is the farthest of the three cities. the furthest</i> |

IV. COMPARATIFS ET SUPERLATIFS DES ADVERBES

Remarque: Construction des adverbes: ADJ + 'LY'

| ADJECTIF | ADVERBE CORRESPONDANT |
|--|--|
| <i>Trains are quick. Planes are quicker. Rockets are the quickest.</i> | <i>Trains go quickly. Planes go more quickly. This rocket flew the most quickly during the tests.</i> |
| <i>Trains are fast.¹ Planes are faster. Rockets are the fastest.</i> | <i>Trains go fast. Planes go faster. This rocket flew the fastest during the tests.</i> |
| <i>Pat's work is good.² Jim's work is better. Sean's work is the best.</i> | <i>Pat works well. Jim works better than Pat. Sean works the best (of the three).</i> |

¹ 'Fast' et 'hard' peuvent être adjectif ou adverbe.

² 'Good' (adjectif) et 'Well' (adverbe correspondant) ont un comparatif et superlatif identiques.

V. COMPARAISONS DES QUANTITES

=> voir NB 8