

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЕ КОНСТРУКЦИИ

STUDY THE EXAMPLE. HOW DO WE COMPARE OBJECTS?

Pets for sale

			
Kittens €30	Guinea pigs €20	Rabbits €20	Tortoise €100

The rabbits **aren't as expensive as** the kittens. The tortoise is **much more expensive than** the other animals.

AS + ADJECTIVE + AS

The same quality. (+)

- The guinea pigs are €20. = The guinea pigs are as expensive as the rabbits.
- The rabbits are €20. = The rabbits are as expensive as the guinea pigs.

A difference in a quality. (-) = not...

- The guinea pigs are €20. = The guinea pigs aren't as expensive as the kittens.
- The kittens are €30. = The kittens aren't as cheap as the guinea pigs.

A big difference. – not nearly as + adjective + as

- I'm not nearly as clever as my brother.

(=He's much cleverer than me.)

A small difference. – almost as/not quite as + adjective + as

- My house is almost as big as yours.
- = My house isn't quite as big as yours. (= slightly smaller)

TASK 1. CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER.

- 0 Your sunglasses are similar to mine.
A They are exactly the same. **B** They are almost the same.
- 1 Jackie isn't as friendly as Lucy.
A Lucy is friendlier than Jackie. B Jackie is friendlier than Lucy.
- 2 This bed is as comfortable as my old one.
A My old bed was more comfortable. B The beds are both comfortable.
- 3 Ana isn't nearly as rich as Susie.
A Susie is much richer than Ana. B Susie is a little richer than Ana.
- 4 Our TV is almost as big as Michael's.
A Michael's TV is a little bigger than ours. B Michael's TV is much bigger than ours.
- 5 I had one of the best exam results in the school.
A Nobody had a better result. B One or two people had a better result.

THE SAME (AS) DIFFERENT FROM

Two things are equal.

- The price of the rabbits and guinea pigs is the same. They both cost €20.
- Michael's motorbike is the same as mine. We both have Honda 250s.

Nearly the same.

- Indian elephants are similar to African elephants, but they are a bit smaller.
- Tigers are different from leopards. Tigers are much bigger.

HOW TO:

-MAKE STRONGER

-MAKE WEAKER

Stronger = much, a lot, far, by far

- The tortoise is much more expensive than the other animals.
- New York is a lot bigger than Paris.
- Frederik is by far the tallest student in our class. (=He is much taller than all the others.)

Weaker = a bit, slightly, a little, one of, among

- The rabbits are slightly cheaper than the kittens.
- My sister is a bit younger than me.
- This is one of the best hospitals in the country.
- Julie is among the cleverest of our students.

TASK 2. PUT THE WORDS IN THE TEXT.

~~lot~~ of far to from not more

Television viewers are sometimes surprised to learn that natural history programmes are often a ^{lot} ~~L~~ more popular than soap operas or films. One the most famous presenters is David Attenborough. He has been making programmes about nature since the 1960s.

In those days Jacques Cousteau was by the most famous TV presenter of nature programmes. Although Cousteau only made programmes about life in the sea, his style of presenting was similar Attenborough's – they both seem like friendly uncles who really love nature.

Of course, today's programmes are different those of fifty years ago. In those days cameras were nearly as small and light as they are now. Today the technology is much advanced and there are digital special effects which can help us understand the complexity of the natural world.

TASK 3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

- 0 Lions are stronger than tigers. (aren't)
Tigers *aren't as strong as* lions.
- 1 I'm not as old as my sister. (than)
My sister
- 2 Our cat is slightly smaller than Daniel's. (quite)
Our cat isn't Daniel's.
- 3 Look, Melanie's dress is really similar to your mother's. (same)
Look, Melanie's dress your mother's.
- 4 Nokia phones are not the same as Motorola ones. (from)
Nokia phones Motorola ones.
- 5 The Metropole is much more expensive than any other hotel in our town. (far)
The Metropole is hotel in our town.
- 6 Prices aren't quite as low as they used to be. (bit)
Prices are they used to be.

TASK 4. READ THE TEXT.

WHY ARE TECHNOLOGIES CALLED “KILLER”?

‘Killer’ technologies

When the steamship was introduced, it was known for blowing up. Eventually, however, the technology improved and it mostly replaced its predecessor, the sailing boat. Then along came the internal combustion engine, and the steamship in turn became redundant.



The petrol engine proved to be by far the most important technology of the early 20th century and car ownership grew by **approximately** 50% each year between 1910 and 1930. As

well as replacing what came before it, this ‘killer’ technology revolutionized the entire world economy in **just over** 20 years with its impact on transport, trade, road-building and oil.

In the second half of the 20th century, the transistor experienced a similar extremely fast growth. The number of transistors produced in the world has reached 10^{18} , compared to just over a million in 1955. The average price per transistor has fallen steadily from $\frac{1}{10}$ of a cent in 1975 to about one ten-millionth of a cent this year. In addition, chips’* critical dimensions have shrunk

from 5,000 nm* to **slightly less than** 90 nm since 1974 and are continuing to fall.

The combustion engine and transistor were core technologies that changed society. They led to thousands of new developments, including mass tourism and television respectively, but as they opened new opportunities, they also destroyed older industries.



At the beginning of the 21st century, the Internet promises to bring about as much change as anything in history, and is developing fast. Internet speeds have

increased **substantially**. We have moved rapidly from 28.8 kbps connections to broadband, and in Europe, there was 206.2% growth in Internet usage between 2000 and 2007, thus reaching **fractionally** less than 40% of the population, or **somewhere in the region of** 322,000,000 people.

* chip = silicon chip which contains invisible transistors * nm = a nanometre = one billionth of a metre

TASK 5.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1 10^{18} | 6 20th |
| 2 28.8 | 7 206.2% |
| 3 1910 | 8 21st |
| 4 2007 | 9 5,000 nm |
| 5 $\frac{1}{10}$ | 10 322,000,000 |

- 1 marginally: _____
- 2 a little more than: _____
- 3 a great deal: _____
- 4 just under: _____
- 5 roughly: _____
- 6 about: _____

grow gradually *crash* *rise substantially* *drop slightly*
stay the same *grow rapidly* *a significant drop*



- 1 Oil price *shoots up* by 30% on Middle East worries.
- 2 Gold *plummets* to all time low.
- 3 There are worrying signs of *a significant increase* in unemployment.
- 4 Doctors express concern at *a noticeable rise* in teenage smoking.
- 5 We'll see *a slight fall* in house prices as mortgages rise.
- 6 All quiet as FTSE *levels off*.
- 7 *A substantial drop* in exports predicted as euro rises.
- 8 Cost of borrowing *rockets* as interest rates double.