

Making Comparisons

Comparing 2 or more unequal things or people:

When comparing two or more objects in Spanish, the words “más” and “menos” are used to indicate more and less. To say that something is more than another, the following construction is used: (Note that the adjective must still match the gender of the object it modifies.)

- {Object 1} es **más** (adjective) **que** {Object 2}.
 - El elefante es **más gordo que** el gato. (The elephant is fatter than the cat.)
 - La chica es **más alta que** su hermano. (The girl is taller than her brother.)
- Similarly, to say that something is less than another: {Object 1} es **menos** (adjective) **que** {Object 2}.
 - Esta silla es de **menos calidad que** la otra. (This chair is of less quality than the other.)
- más / menos que can also be used to compare quantities, actions, etc.
 - yo estudio **más que** ella. (I study more than she does).
 - Mi casa tiene **menos cuartos que** tu casa. (My house has less rooms than yours.)
- When comparing numeric quantities, we use **de** instead of **que**:
 - Ella tiene **más de 20 pesos** en su bolsa. (She has more than \$20 pesos in her purse.)
- The following four adjectives have irregular forms (used in both comparisons and superlatives):
 - bueno (good): **mejor** (better, best)
 - Esta película es **mejor que** la otra. (This film is better than the other one.)
 - malo (bad): **peor** (worse, worst)
 - Los dulces son **peores que** los vegetales. (Candy is worse than vegetables.)
 - **mayor** (older, oldest)
 - Juan es mi hermano **mayor** (John is my older brother.)
 - **menor** (younger, youngest).
 - Rosa es **menor que** Rodrigo. (Rose is younger than Rodrigo.)
 - Gonzalo es el **menor**. (Gonzalo is the youngest.)
- To say that something is “the greatest” or “the best” in their category, the superlative is used in this fashion.
 - {Object 1} es el/la/los/las (adjective) del / de la/los/las (group of comparison.)
 - La girafa es **la más alta de** los animales. (The giraffe is the tallest of the animals.)
 - Pablo y María **son los más inteligentes de** la clase. (Paul and Mary are the most intelligent in the class.)

Comparing equal items or people:

- To say that two things are equal, “tan...como” is used:
 - {Object 1} es **tan** (adjective) **como** {Object 2}.
 - El profesor es **tan interesante como** la televisión. (The professor is as interesting as T.V.)
 - Yo soy **tan gordo como** tú. (I am as fat as you are.)
- When comparing similar actions, you change tan to tanto:
 - Ella baila **tanto como** una profesional. (She dances as much as a professional.)
 - Yo como **tanto como** un elefante. (I eat as much as an elephant.)
- When comparing similar quantities, tanto is used and should match the items being compared in number and gender:
 - Ella tiene **tanto dinero como** el rey. (She has as much money as the king.)
 - Tú tienes **tantas hermanas como** Miguel. (You have as many sisters as Michael.)

For more practice on this topic, please visit:

<http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm>, exercises 37, 38, 39, 55

<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/comparisons1.html>