

Comparatives

Comparing two things in Spanish is a language structure that examiners like to see in your writing and speaking since it allows you to demonstrate your command of grammar (particularly verb and adjectival agreement).

Regular comparatives

There are three regular ways of making comparatives:

- **más** ... **que**
- **menos** ... **que**
- **tan** ... **como**

Juan es más gracioso que Jorge.

Juan is funnier than Jorge.

Nadar es más entretenido que correr.

Swimming is more entertaining than running.

Ana es menos tímida que Pablo.

Ana is less shy than Pablo.

Ver películas es menos aburrido que ver la tele.

Watching films is less boring than watching TV.

Pedro y Raquel son tan amables como Carlos.

Pedro and Raquel are as kind as Carlos.



In each case the adjective must agree with the first subject(s) and verbs must also agree with the subject.

When you want to compare two activities using an infinitive, always use an adjective in the masculine, singular form.

Irregular comparatives

There are four adjectives that are irregular when making comparisons in Spanish and they are shown in the table below:

Adjective	Comparative
bueno/a (good) buenos/as	mejor (better) mejores
malo/a (bad) malos/as	peor (worse) peores
grande (great, big) grandes	mayor (older, greater in age or status) mayores más/menos grande(s) (larger/less large in size)
pequeño/a (small) pequeños/as	menor (lesser, younger in age or status) menores más/menos pequeño(a/os/as) (smaller/less small in size)

Using adverbs in comparatives

The adverbs **bien** (well) and **mal** (poorly) become **mejor** (better) and **peor** (worse) in their comparative forms.

*Tomás canta mejor que yo.**

Tomás sings better than me.

Elena cocina peor que Javier.

Elena cooks worse than Javier.



*Note the use of subject pronouns: **yo, tú, él, ella, nosotros, vosotros, ellos, ellas.**

Superlatives

When you have a group of three or more people or things it is possible to talk about the extremes of a group – ‘the most ...’ or ‘the least...’.

Regular superlatives

There are two ways of making regular superlatives:

The most... **el / la / los / las + más + adjective + (de)**

The least... **el / la / los / las + menos + adjective + (de)**

As with comparatives, the definite article, verb and the adjective must all agree.

Juan es el más alto (de la clase)

Juan is the tallest (in the class).

Juan es la persona más alta.

Juan is the tallest person.

Los chicos son los menos educados.

The boys are the least polite.

Mi hija tiene las amigas más simpáticas del mundo.

My daughter has the nicest friends in the world.

Note: if you want to mention the group of things from which you are making the superlative then use **de**.

Irregular superlatives

The same adjectives that become irregular when forming comparatives, also become irregular in superlatives:

mejor, peor, menor, mayor

Rosa es la menor de la familia.

Rosa is the youngest of the family.

Pepe es el hermano mayor de la familia.

Pepe is the oldest brother of the family.



When using **mejor** and **peor**, these usually come in front of the noun (if a noun is used).

Pepe es el mejor

Pepe is the best.

Pepe es el mejor hermano.

Pepe is the best brother.

Pepe y Rosa son los mejores estudiantes de la clase

Pepe and Rosa are the best students in the class.

Lorena es la peor cantante que conozco.

Lorena is the worst singer I know.