

# 22 Comparative structures

## 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.

### 1 as + adjective + as

To say that two things have the same quality we use *as + adjective + as*:

*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.*

To describe a difference in quality we can use *not as + adjective + as*:

*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.*

If there is a big difference, we can use *not nearly as + adjective + as*:

*I'm not nearly as clever as my brother.* (= He's much cleverer than me.)

If there is a small difference, we can use *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)

### Pronunciation > 1.07

### 2 the same (as) and different from

We use *the same (as)* when two things are equal:

*The price of the rabbits and the guinea pigs is the same.* They both cost €20.


*Mikal's motorbike is the same as mine.* We both have Honda 250s.

We use *similar (to)* when something is nearly the same:

*Indian elephants are similar to African elephants, but they're a bit smaller.*

The opposite of *the same as* is *different from*. We can also use *different to*, but it is less common: *Tigers are different from leopards.* *Tigers are much bigger.*

American English *different than* > page 352

 We use nouns and pronouns after *the same (as)*, *similar (to)* and *different (from)*, not adjectives:

*✗ They are the same expensive.* ✓ *They are the same price.*

*✗ My brother and I are different tall.* ✓ *My brother and I are different heights.*

### 3 Making comparisons stronger or weaker

We can make comparisons stronger with *much*, *a lot* and *far*:

*The tortoise is much more expensive than the other animals.*

*New York is a lot bigger than Paris.*

We can make comparisons weaker with *a bit*, *slightly* or *a little*:

*The rabbits are slightly cheaper than the kittens.* *My sister is a bit younger than me.*

We can make superlatives stronger with *by far*. It means there is a big difference:

*Fredrik is by far the tallest student in our class.* (= He's much taller than all the others.)

We can make superlatives weaker with *one of* or *among*:

*This is one of the best hospitals in the country.* (Only a few hospitals may be better.)

*Julie is among the cleverest of our students.*

*too*, *enough* and *so/such* with adjectives > Unit 79.2/3