

15 Other comparative patterns

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are the most famous bank robbers in American history. In the early 1930s they carried out a string of robberies in the American mid-West. Although they looked like an innocent young couple, they were ruthless criminals. As they travelled, they became more and more daring, killing at least nine police officers. They were eventually shot dead by police in 1934. Their story was made into a film in 1967.



1 (not) as ... as

We can say that two things are equal by using *as* + adjective + *as*:

*The Spanish omelette is **as expensive as** the chicken salad. They both cost €7.99.*

We make this comparison more emphatic with *just*:

*In the American legal system, juries are **just as important as** in the UK.*

To say that things are almost equal we use *just about*, *about*, *almost*, *more or less* or *nearly* + *as*:

*Let's not eat here. This café's **just about as bad as** the last one.*

*My niece is **nearly as old as** me!*

We make a negative comparison with *not as/so* + adjective + *as*:

*Warsaw **isn't as large as** London. (= London is larger.)*

We can modify this type of comparison with *nearly* or *quite*:

*Motor bikes **aren't nearly so expensive as** cars. (= Motor bikes are much cheaper.)*

*My mobile phone **isn't quite as good as** Sunil's. (= Sunil's phone is slightly better.)*

FORMALITY CHECK In informal spoken English we can use *not anything like*, *nothing like* or *nowhere near* + *as* + adjective:

*That dress **isn't anything like as nice as** the red one.*

*This outfit's **nothing like/nowhere near as fashionable as** the one in the magazine.*

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2 no/not any + comparative adjective

We can use comparative adjectives to say that two things are equal.

We use *is* + *no* + comparative adjective or *is not* + *any* + comparative adjective:

*That Nokia phone **is no more expensive than/no dearer than** the Samsung.*

(= They are the same price.)

*The Nokia **isn't any cheaper than/isn't any less expensive than** the Samsung.*

(= They are the same price.)

3 Progressive comparison

We can describe how something increases or decreases in intensity by repeating *more* or the same comparative adjective, with *and* between the forms:

*As they travelled, Bonnie and Clyde became **more and more daring**.*

*Her visits to the country to see her son became **rarer and rarer**.*