

8.3 Comparisons



Tutorial

ANTE TODO

Both Spanish and English use comparisons to indicate which of two people or things has a lesser, equal, or greater degree of a quality.

Comparisons

menos interesante
less interesting

más grande
bigger

tan sabroso como
as delicious as

Comparisons of inequality

- ▶ Comparisons of inequality are formed by placing **más** (*more*) or **menos** (*less*) before adjectives, adverbs, and nouns and **que** (*than*) after them.

más/menos + $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{adjective} \\ \text{adverb} \\ \text{noun} \end{array} \right]$ + **que**

- ▶ **¡Atención!** Note that while English has a comparative form for short adjectives (*taller*), such forms do not exist in Spanish (**más alto**).

adjectives

Los bistecs son **más caros que** el pollo. | Estas uvas son **menos ricas que** esa pera.
Steaks are more expensive than chicken. | *These grapes are less tasty than that pear.*

adverbs

Me acuesto **más tarde que** tú. | Luis se despierta **menos temprano que** yo.
I go to bed later than you (do). | *Luis wakes up less early than I (do).*

nouns

Juan prepara **más platos que** José. | Susana come **menos carne que** Enrique.
Juan prepares more dishes than José (does). | *Susana eats less meat than Enrique (does).*

La ensalada es menos cara que la sopa.



¿El pollo es más rico que el jamón?



- ▶ When the comparison involves a numerical expression, **de** is used before the number instead of **que**.

Hay **más de** cincuenta naranjas.
There are more than fifty oranges.

Llego en **menos de** diez minutos.
I'll be there in less than ten minutes.

- ▶ With verbs, this construction is used to make comparisons of inequality.

$\left[\text{verb} \right]$ + **más/menos que**

Mis hermanos **comen más que** yo.
My brothers eat more than I (do).

Arturo **duerme menos que** su padre.
Arturo sleeps less than his father (does).

Comparisons of equality

- This construction is used to make comparisons of equality.

tan + $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{adjective} \\ \text{adverb} \end{array} \right]$ + **como**

tanto/a(s) + $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{singular noun} \\ \text{plural noun} \end{array} \right]$ + **como**

¿Es tan guapo
como yo?



¿Aquí vienen tantos
mexicanos como
extranjeros?



- **¡Atención!** Note that unlike **tan**, **tanto** acts as an adjective and therefore agrees in number and gender with the noun it modifies.

Estas uvas son **tan ricas**
como aquéllas.

*These grapes are as tasty
as those ones (are).*

Yo probé **tantos platos como** él.
I tried as many dishes as he did.

- **Tan** and **tanto** can also be used for emphasis, rather than to compare, with these meanings: **tan** *so*, **tanto** *so much*, **tantos/las** *so many*.

¡Tu almuerzo es **tan** grande!
Your lunch is so big!

¡Comes **tanto**!
You eat so much!

¡Comes **tantas** manzanas!
You eat so many apples!

¡Preparan **tantos** platos!
They prepare so many dishes!

- Comparisons of equality with verbs are formed by placing **tanto como** after the verb. Note that in this construction **tanto** does not change in number or gender.

$\left[\text{verb} \right]$ + **tanto como**

Tú viajas **tanto como** mi tía.
You travel as much as my aunt (does).

Ellos hablan **tanto como** mis hermanas.
They talk as much as my sisters.



Comemos **tanto como** ustedes.
We eat as much as you (do).



No estudio **tanto como** Felipe.
I don't study as much as Felipe (does).

Irregular comparisons

► Some adjectives have irregular comparative forms.

Irregular comparative forms

Adjective		Comparative form	
bueno/a	good	mejor	better
malo/a	bad	peor	worse
grande	big, grown, adult	mayor	bigger, older
pequeño/a	small	menor	smaller
joven	young	menor	younger
viejo/a	old	mayor	older

► When **grande** and **pequeño/a** refer to age, the irregular comparative forms, **mayor** and **menor**, are used. However, when these adjectives refer to size, the regular forms, **más grande** and **más pequeño/a**, are used.

Yo soy **menor** que tú.
I'm younger than you.

Pedí un plato **más pequeño**.
I ordered a smaller dish.



Nuestro hijo es **mayor** que el hijo de los Andrade.
Our son is older than the Andrades' son.



El plato de Isabel es **más grande** que éste.
Isabel's dish is bigger than that one.

► The adverbs **bien** and **mal** have the same irregular comparative forms as the adjectives **bueno/a** and **malo/a**.

Julio nada **mejor** que los otros chicos.
Julio swims better than the other boys.

Ellas cantan **peor** que las otras chicas.
They sing worse than the other girls.

🔗 **¡INTÉNTALO!** Escribe el equivalente de las palabras en inglés.

- Ernesto mira más televisión que (than) Alberto.
- Tú eres _____ (less) simpático que Federico.
- La camarera sirve _____ (as much) carne como pescado.
- Conozco _____ (more) restaurantes que tú.
- No estudio _____ (as much as) tú.
- ¿Sabes jugar al tenis tan bien _____ (as) tu hermana?
- ¿Puedes beber _____ (as many) refrescos como yo?
- Mis amigos parecen _____ (as) simpáticos como ustedes.

CONSULTA

To review how descriptive adjectives like **bueno**, **malo**, and **grande** are shortened before nouns, see Estructura 3.1, p. 90.

recursos

vText

CA

p. 151

CP

pp. 91-92

CH

pp. 123-124

