COMPARATIVE CLAUSES

CEFR Level B1 — Intermediate

English Language Worksheets | 4 Worksheets + Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Ellipsis in Comparative Clauses

What we leave out — and what we must keep.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Look and learn**

Full	Reduced	What was left out
She earns more than he earns.	than he does	the main verb → 'does'
She earns more than he does.	than he	the auxiliary too
I'm as tired as you are tired.	as you are	the adjective
He came earlier than I came.	than I did	the main verb → 'did'
It costs more than it cost last year.	than last year	subject + verb

*Ellipsis works only if the missing words are **recoverable**. Everything you delete must be identical to something already in the sentence.*

PART B — **Reduce the clause**

Rewrite each sentence, reducing the comparative clause as much as possible while keeping it clear.

1. He worked longer hours than she worked.
   → _____
2. This machine is not as efficient as the old machine was efficient.
   → _____
3. They spent more money than they had planned to spend.
   → _____
4. She was more disappointed than her colleagues were disappointed.
   → _____
5. The train arrives sooner than the bus arrives.
   → _____

PART C — **Restore the missing words**

Write out each comparative clause in full.

1. She speaks French better than I do.
   → … than _____
2. This model is cheaper than last year's.
   → … than _____

3 He is as nervous as she is.
→ … as _____

Score: _____ / 8

Worksheet 2: 'than I' or 'than me'?

Case after 'than' and 'as' — and why it sometimes changes the meaning.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Look and learn**

Form	Register	Note
than I am / than I do	formal, always safe	the clause is complete
than I	formal, slightly old-fashioned	verb ellipted
than me	informal, very common	'than' treated as a preposition
as tall as he is	formal	complete clause
as tall as him	informal	very common in speech

Sometimes the case changes the meaning! ***She likes him more than I*** *(= more than I like him).* ***She likes him more than me*** *(= more than she likes me).*

PART B — **What does it mean?**

Explain the meaning of each sentence in your own words.

1. "He trusts Ana more than I."
   Meaning: _____
2. "He trusts Ana more than me."
   Meaning: _____
3. "She helped you as much as I did."
   Meaning: _____
4. "She helped you as much as she helped me."
   Meaning: _____

PART C — **Remove the ambiguity**

Each sentence has two possible meanings. Rewrite it TWICE to make each meaning clear.

1. "I admire her more than my sister."
   Meaning A: _____
   Meaning B: _____
2. "The manager pays Tom better than Sara."
   Meaning A: _____
   Meaning B: _____

Score: _____ / 12

Worksheet 3: Illogical & Incomplete Comparisons

Compare like with like — and always finish the comparison.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A **Look and learn**

Problem	Wrong	Right
comparing unlike things	Her salary is higher than a doctor.	Her salary is higher than a doctor's.
missing ‘that of’	The climate of Spain is milder than Norway.	… than that of Norway.
incomplete comparison	This washes whiter!	This washes whiter than the leading brand.
double comparative	He is more taller than me.	He is taller than me.
‘any’ excluding the subject	She is taller than any girl.	… than any other girl.

Find and correct the fault in each sentence.

1 “The population of Tokyo is larger than Berlin.”
_____

2 “He is more cleverer than his brother.”
_____

3 “Rome is older than any city in Italy.”
_____

4 “My car is faster.” (incomplete)
_____

5 “The wings of an eagle are longer than a sparrow.”
_____

PART B **Complete the comparison logically**

Finish each sentence so that like is compared with like.

1 The rainfall in Ireland is heavier than _____ .

2 A cheetah's speed is greater than _____ .

3 Our results this year were better than _____ .

Score: _____ / 8

Worksheet 4: Reading & Writing

Comparisons in a real text, then in your own.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Analytical reading**

> *The new stadium cost far more than the city had budgeted, though not as much as critics had feared. Its capacity is greater than that of any other ground in the region, and the pitch drains faster than the old one did. Supporters arrive earlier than they used to, partly because the transport links are better than they were. Yet attendance has risen less sharply than the council predicted it would. As one local put it: 'It's a finer stadium than we needed, and an emptier one than we deserved.'*

1. Find FIVE comparative clauses and write out the clause after 'than' or 'as'.

_____

_____

_____

2. 'greater than that of any other ground' — what does 'that of' replace, and why is it needed?

_____

_____

3. Find one example of ellipsis and write the clause out in full.

_____

_____

4. Why 'any other ground' rather than 'any ground'?

_____

PART B — **Write a comparison**

Write a paragraph (80–100 words) comparing two places, products or teams. Use at least FIVE comparative clauses, including ONE with 'that of' and ONE with ellipsis. Underline them.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word count: _____ Clauses underlined: _____ / 5

Score: _____ / 14

ANSWER KEY & TEACHER NOTES

For teacher use only — B1 Level Worksheets

Comparative Clauses | English Language Worksheets

Worksheet 1 – Ellipsis

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
B1	longer hours than she worked	**… than she did.**
B2	as efficient as the old machine was efficient	**… as the old one (was).**
B3	more money than they had planned to spend	**… than they had planned (to).**
B4	more disappointed than her colleagues were disappointed	**… than her colleagues (were).**
B5	sooner than the bus arrives	**… than the bus (does).**
C1	than I do	**than I speak French**
C2	than last year's	**than last year's model was (cheap) / than last year's model cost**
C3	as she is	**as she is nervous**

Worksheet 2 – Case & Ambiguity

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
B1	than I	**He trusts Ana more than I trust Ana.**
B2	than me	**He trusts Ana more than he trusts me.**
B3	as much as I did	**Both of us helped you; our help was equal.**
B4	as much as she helped me	**She helped you and me equally.**
C1	I admire her more than my sister	**A: '… more than my sister admires her.' B: '… more than I admire my sister.'**
C2	pays Tom better than Sara	**A: '… better than he pays Sara.' B: '… better than Sara pays him.'**

Worksheet 3 – Illogical & Incomplete

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A1	Tokyo / Berlin	**… larger than that of Berlin. (compare population with population)**
A2	more cleverer	**He is cleverer than his brother. (no double comparative)**
A3	any city in Italy	**Rome is older than any other city in Italy.**
A4	My car is faster.	**My car is faster than yours / than the old one. (complete it)**
A5	wings / a sparrow	**… longer than those of a sparrow.**
B	Complete logically 1–3	**e.g. 1 '… than that of Spain.' 2 '… than that of any other land animal.' 3 '… than they were last year.' Accept any answer comparing like with like.**

Worksheet 4 – Reading & Writing

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A1	Five comparative clauses	**‘than the city had budgeted’; ‘as much as critics had feared’; ‘than that of any other ground in the region’; ‘than the old one did’; ‘than they used to’; ‘than they were’; ‘than the council predicted it would’; ‘than we needed’; ‘than we deserved’**
A2	‘that of’	**It replaces ‘the capacity of’. Without it the sentence would compare a capacity with a ground — unlike things.**
A3	ellipsis	**e.g. ‘than the old one did’ → ‘than the old pitch drained’; ‘than they were’ → ‘than the transport links were good’; ‘than we needed’ → ‘than we needed it to be’**
A4	‘any other’	**The stadium is itself a ground in the region. Without ‘other’ it would have to exceed its own capacity — a logical impossibility.**
B	Comparison (80–100 words)	**Up to 6 marks: 5 for five correct comparative clauses (one with ‘that of’, one with ellipsis), 1 for coherence and accuracy.**