COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

CEFR Level C1 — Advanced

English Language Worksheets | 4 Worksheets + Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Advanced Comparative & Superlative Structures

At C1 level, accuracy with standard forms is assumed. This worksheet focuses on nuanced and idiomatic structures.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Key structures at C1

Structure	Function & Notes	Example
no + comparative + than	Expresses equivalence or surprising similarity	"She is no wiser than she was at twenty."
the + comp., the + comp.	Expresses proportional change	"The more you practise, the more fluent you become."
comparative + and + comparative	Expresses progressive change	"The situation is becoming more and more complex."
nothing like as … as	Emphatic negative comparison	"The sequel was nothing like as compelling as the original."
far / considerably / slightly + comparative	Degree modifiers	"The outcome was considerably worse than anticipated."
least + adjective + of/in	Superlative of inferiority	"This is the least convincing argument of the three."
second / third + superlative	Ordinal superlatives	"Tokyo is the second most populous city in the world."
any + comparative (negatives/questions)	Extended comparisons	"I could not have been any more surprised."

PART A — **Complete the sentences**

Fill in each gap with an appropriate word or phrase. More than one answer may be possible where indicated.

1 The ___ attention you pay to nuance, the ___ your writing will be.

2 His recent novel is by far ___ work he has ever produced.

3 The recovery was ___ than the economists had forecast.

4 She proved to be ___ adept at negotiation than her predecessor.

5 This policy is ___ least ___ of all the options on the table.

6 London is ___ second ___ visited city in Europe.

7 The further they ventured into the wilderness, ___ disoriented they became.

8 I could not have felt ___ more out of my depth.

PART B — Error analysis

Identify and correct the error in each sentence. Then write a brief note explaining the grammatical rule violated.

1 *""The situation grew more and more worse over the months that followed.""*

Correction: _____

Rule: _____

2 *""Her second novel was nothing like as successful than her debut.""*

Correction: _____

Rule: _____

3 *""The most I think about it, the less certain I become.""*

Correction: _____

Rule: _____

4 *""This is undoubtedly the least impressive of the two proposals.""*

Correction: _____

Rule: _____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Register, Connotation & Gradability

Advanced users understand that synonyms carry different connotations and register implications.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **The connotation spectrum**

Base Adjective	Mild +	Neutral	Strong –	Strongest –
cheap	inexpensive	economical	affordable	cost-effective
old	elderly	dated	antiquated	venerable
thin	slim	slender	gaunt	emaciated
angry	irritated	furious	indignant	incensed
happy	content	elated	euphoric	smug

PART B — **Context-sensitive comparisons**

For each scenario below, choose the most register-appropriate adjective from the table and write a comparative or superlative sentence. Justify your lexical choice in one sentence.

1. Context: A medical report describing a patient

Adjective family: "thin"

_____

_____

Justification: _____

2. Context: A glowing obituary for a respected judge

Adjective family: "old"

_____

_____

Justification: _____

3. Context: A satirical political column

Adjective family: "happy (about the outcome)"

_____

_____

Justification: _____

4. Context: An economics paper on consumer goods

Adjective family: "cheap"

_____

_____

Justification: _____

PART C

Gradability & absolute adjectives

Decide whether each use below is (a) grammatically standard, (b) an acceptable stylistic use, or (c) a genuine error. Write your verdict and justify it.

1. "This is the most unique artwork I have encountered in my career."

Verdict: (a) / (b) / (c) Justification: _____

2. "Of the two candidates, her qualifications are the more complete."

Verdict: (a) / (b) / (c) Justification: _____

3. "The conditions on the summit were more impossible than we had imagined."

Verdict: (a) / (b) / (c) Justification: _____

4. "This is the deadest town I have ever visited." (journalist, colour piece)

Verdict: (a) / (b) / (c) Justification: _____

5. "Her performance was the most perfect I have witnessed in thirty years."

Verdict: (a) / (b) / (c) Justification: _____

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Academic Writing & Critical Analysis

Use comparative structures in analytical reading and formal academic writing.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — Analytical reading

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

> Urban mobility solutions have evolved considerably over the past two decades. Electric vehicles are widely considered the most environmentally responsible choice for private transport, yet the infrastructure required to support them remains far less developed in rural areas than in cities. Shared mobility schemes, while undeniably more cost-effective than individual car ownership for many commuters, have proved no less controversial than the policies they were designed to replace. Critics argue that the most vulnerable communities have benefited least from these innovations, and that the gap between the most and least connected urban districts is becoming progressively wider.

1. Identify all comparative and superlative structures in the passage (at least seven). List them and label each as comparative (C) or superlative (S).

_____

_____

_____

2. The writer uses 'no less controversial than'. What does this construction imply? How would the meaning change if 'equally controversial' were used instead?

_____

_____

_____

3. Comment on the stylistic effect of 'progressively wider'. Why might an academic writer prefer this to 'wider and wider'?

_____

_____

_____

4. The phrase 'benefited least' implies a comparison. What is being compared? Rewrite the idea using a full superlative construction.

_____

_____

_____

PART B — Sentence transformation

Rewrite each sentence according to the instruction. Do not change the core meaning.

1. Original: Electric vehicles are better for the environment than petrol cars.

Task: Intensify using a degree adverb (e.g. considerably, substantially).

_____

_____

2. Original: City A has a better public transport network than City B.

Task: Rewrite using 'nothing like as … as'.

_____

_____

3. Original: As renewable energy becomes cheaper, its adoption increases.

Task: Rewrite using the 'the … the …' double comparative structure.

_____

_____

4. Original: This is a very poor policy.

Task: Rewrite as a superlative construction comparing it to at least two alternatives.

_____

_____

5. Original: The disparity between rich and poor neighbourhoods is getting bigger.

Task: Rewrite using 'comparative + and + comparative'.

_____

_____

PART C

Guided essay paragraph

Write a paragraph of 120–150 words arguing one of the positions below. You must include at least FOUR different comparative or superlative structures from Worksheet 1. Register must be consistently formal-academic.

Position A: Remote work is a considerably more effective model for knowledge workers than traditional office environments.

Position B: Urban living, however challenging, remains far more sustainable than suburban or rural alternatives.

My position: ___ A ___ B

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word count: _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Synthesis, Data Interpretation & Argumentation

Combine data analysis with sophisticated comparative argumentation.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Interpreting complex data**

Study the data comparing five global cities. Higher Air Quality Index = cleaner air; higher Cost of Living Index = more expensive. Write six analytical sentences applying the constraints below.

City	GDP/capita	Cost of Living	Air Quality	Avg Commute	Life Satisfaction
Vienna	$58,000	72	88	27 min	8.1
Singapore	$65,000	85	74	31 min	7.3
Copenhagen	$62,000	89	91	22 min	8.4
São Paulo	$14,000	41	53	61 min	6.2
Toronto	$52,000	76	82	44 min	7.8

1. [Use 'considerably' or 'substantially' with a comparative form.]

_____

_____

2. [Use the superlative of inferiority (least + adjective).]

_____

_____

3. [Use the 'the … the …' double comparative to link two variables.]

_____

_____

4. [Use an ordinal superlative (second most / third least, etc.).]

_____

_____

5. [Use 'nothing like as … as' to make an emphatic comparison.]

_____

_____

6. [Write a sentence acknowledging a limitation of comparative data (e.g. using 'while … more … than …').]

_____

_____

PART B — **Adversarial comparison**

Write a two-sentence counter-argument that concedes part of the claim but challenges it using a different comparative perspective. Use formal register throughout.

1. Claim: "Copenhagen is clearly the most liveable city in the dataset, as it scores highest on both air quality and life satisfaction."

Hint: Consider the relationship between cost of living and accessibility.

Counter-argument:

_____

_____

2. Claim: "Singapore is the most economically dynamic city and therefore the most desirable destination for skilled professionals."

Hint: Consider whether GDP per capita alone determines desirability.

Counter-argument:

_____

_____

3. Claim: "São Paulo is the least developed of the five cities and therefore the least attractive to international investors."

Hint: Consider what a lower cost of living might indicate about investment opportunity.

Counter-argument:

_____

_____

PART C **Extended writing task**

Write a discursive essay introduction (180–220 words) on the proposition: "Economic prosperity is a far more reliable indicator of societal wellbeing than any other single measure." Requirements: use at least five distinct comparative or superlative structures (underline them); maintain formal-academic register; present the proposition, acknowledge its complexity, and signal your line of argument.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word count: _____ Structures underlined: _____ / 5

Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key — C1 Level

For teacher use only

Answer Key

WS1 Part A: 1)more/richer 2)the most accomplished/finest 3)considerably/far slower 4)far more/considerably more 5)the/desirable 6)the/most 7)the more 8)any

WS1 Part B: 1)double comparative — 'worse and worse' (not 'more and more worse') 2)'nothing like as … as' (not 'than') 3)'The more' (not 'the most') 4)'less' with two options (not 'least')

WS2 Part B model answers: 1)The patient presented in a considerably more emaciated state… 2)He was among the most venerable members… 3)The minister appeared no less smug than usual… 4)Solar energy has become far more cost-effective than fossil fuels…

WS2 Part C: 1)(b) stylistic/informal 2)(a) standard — two items use comparative 3)(b) borderline/hyperbole 4)(b) journalistic stylistic use 5)(b) common in informal/hyperbolic register

WS3 Part A: most environmentally responsible (S); far less developed (C); more cost-effective (C); no less controversial (C); most vulnerable (S); benefited least (S); most and least connected (S×2); progressively wider (C)

WS3 Part B: 1)considerably/far more environmentally responsible 2)nothing like as developed as 3)the cheaper … the faster 4)the least effective of all the policies 5)wider and wider / more and more pronounced

WS4 Part A model: 1)Copenhagen scores considerably higher… 2)São Paulo is the least affluent… 3)The higher the cost of living, the more likely… 4)Vienna has the second lowest cost of living… 5)São Paulo's air quality is nothing like as high as Copenhagen's 6)While Copenhagen records the highest life satisfaction, its cost of living is considerably higher than São Paulo's…