

0.7 UK vs USA

Grammar: Comparative structures

Vocabulary: Adjectives and adverbs

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

- 1 Find pairs of words that describe the same thing in American and British English. Use a dictionary if necessary.

biscuit closet cookie elevator
garbage holiday lift pavement
rubbish sidewalk subway
underground vacation wardrobe

biscuit (UK) = cookie (US)

- 2 **CD 1.7 MP3-7** In pairs, read the blog entry and discuss which option you think is correct. Then listen to Jess talking to a friend and check your ideas with hers.



An American in London

I've been chatting to a British friend, comparing life in the USA with life here in the UK. Here are some of my conclusions.

In the UK ...

- the cost of living is a lot ¹higher / lower than
- salaries are ²quite a bit / a little lower than
- food portions are a lot ³smaller / bigger than
- most people live in ⁴slightly / much smaller houses than
- housework is a lot ⁵harder / easier because there are ⁶more / fewer appliances than
- health care ⁷is more expensive than / isn't as expensive as
- employees get ⁸a lot / slightly more time off than
- people visit museums far ⁹more / less frequently than ... in the USA.



where I lived in the USA



where I live now in the UK

- 3 Read REMEMBER THIS. Then complete the cartoon caption with *as, less, much, quite, than* or *the*.

REMEMBER THIS

- Adjective forms = add *-er/the -est* to short adjectives, *more/the most* to long adjectives; irregular adjectives: *good, bad, far*
- Adverb forms = add *more/the most* or *less/the least* to adverbs; exceptions include *early/earlier, fast/faster, well/better*
- Modifying comparisons = *far/much/a lot/quite a bit/a bit/a little/slightly* + comparative adjective/adverb
- Other structures = *as ... as, not as/so ... as, the ... the*



- A: Wow that coffee cup is as big ¹_____ my head! Is everything ²_____ larger in the USA than in the UK?
- B: Yes, except one thing: bathtubs are ³_____ a bit smaller.
- A: Why? There's far more space in American houses ⁴_____ British ones.
- B: Americans take baths ⁵_____ regularly than British people. They prefer showers. But their shower rooms are ⁶_____ biggest in the world!

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- 4 Form the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives and adverbs in the box.

badly-paid (adj) extreme (adj) fit (adj) late (adv)
healthy (adj) soon (adv) well-dressed (adj)

badly-paid/worse-paid/the worst-paid

- 5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the words in capitals.

- 1 British comedies aren't as funny as American comedies. **THAN**
American comedies are _____ British ones.
- 2 Andy Roddick's serve is faster than Andy Murray's. **AS**
Andy Murray's serve _____ Andy Roddick's.
- 3 One World Trade Center in New York is much taller than the Shard in London. **LESS**
The Shard in London is _____ the One World Trade Center in New York.
- 4 If you live in Boston, you grow to love it more each day. **MORE**
The longer you live in Boston, _____ you love it.
- 5 English rock music is better than any other. **BEST**
English rock music is _____ world.

- 6 Use the prompts and the words in brackets to write comparative sentences. Which facts did you already know?

- 1 football players / well-paid / American Football players (much)
2 Big Ben / high / Statue of Liberty (a bit)
3 US life expectancy / short / UK life expectancy (a little)
4 US military expenditure / great / UK military expenditure (far)