

Note:

When the verb and the *-ing* forms refer to different subjects, we use possessive adjectives (*my, his, their*, etc.) or object pronouns (*me, him, them*, etc.):

Are you sure your parents **don't mind your/you working long hours?** (= Are you sure that it's OK with your parents that you work long hours?)

Are you sure your parents **don't mind working long hours?** (= Are you sure that it's OK with your parents that they work long hours?)

He **insisted on my/me staying** at work longer for the whole week. (= He demanded that I stay at work longer for the whole week.)

He **insisted on staying** at work longer for the whole week. (= He kept staying at work longer for the whole week.)

5.3 GRAMMAR

1 Complete the sentences using the words in brackets. Do not change the order of the words given, but add extra words where necessary.

- Have you ever (consider/take) a year off work?
- In our company, (be/salesperson) involves travelling around the country.
- Tom's mother can't (imagine/he/work) in the medical field.
- On (offer/internship) , you are expected to contact the company as soon as possible and confirm your acceptance or rejection of the offer.
- When Olivia started working here, she had (difficulty/get) to grips with our database.
- I apologised (not/finish) the project before the deadline.

2 Complete the second sentence using the word in capitals so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between three and five words in each gap.

- Our new intern is very young, but she doesn't like it when people treat her like a child. **RESENTS**
Our new intern is very young, but like a child.
- It doesn't make sense to send off your CV to this company because you don't have the right qualifications. **POINT**
There's your CV to this company because you don't have the right qualifications.
- Their complaint was that they were not offered any training options. **ABOUT**
They complained any training options.
- You make a better impression at a job interview when you wear smart clothes. **MAKES**
 a better impression at a job interview.
- Most skilled jobs depend on technical knowledge, so it's vital to acquire it at school. **WITH**
 on technical knowledge, it's vital to acquire it at school.
- I didn't even think of looking for another job because I didn't know that our company was on the verge of going bust. **NOT**
 our company was on the verge of going bust, I didn't even think of looking for another job.

Advanced comparative structures

Combined comparison with *the*

We use *the* + comparative adjective ..., *the* + comparative adjective ... to say that one thing depends on another thing or to show that two things change together. We can form this structure in three different ways:

- the* + comparative adjective + subject + verb, *the* + comparative adjective + subject + verb:
The earlier we leave, **the sooner** we'll arrive at the airport.
The more dangerous our holiday is, **the more** we like it.
- the* + comparative adjective + noun, *the* + comparative adjective + noun:
The closer to the beach, **the more expensive** the hotel.
The more luxurious the hotel, **the higher** the price.
- the* + comparative adjective + *the better* – a short form of the structure:
The sooner the better.

Progressive comparison

- comparative adjective + *and* + comparative adjective.
We use this structure to indicate that something is changing all the time:

*Pet-friendly cottages in Cornwall are becoming **easier and easier** to find.*

*Off-the-beaten-track holidays are **more and more popular** among young people.*

*As my parents grow older, they become **less and less adventurous** when it comes to travelling.*

as and such

- as + adjective + a/an + noun + as:
*It turned out that North Tanzania wasn't **as exotic a place as** we had imagined.*
*I wish I could be **as prolific a travel writer as** my grandfather was in his early thirties.*
- such a/an + adjective + noun + as/that clause:
*To be honest, it wasn't **such a bad journey as** we had dreaded.*
*Going to live in India for a year wasn't **such a life-changing decision as** I had wanted it to be.*
*The whole trip was **such an off-putting experience that** we decided against visiting this place again.*
*It was **such a dark night that** we got lost on our way back to the campsite.*

Contrasting two connected qualities

- more* + adjective + *than* + adjective.
In this structure, we always use *more* + adjective, even with short adjectives that normally form a comparative with *-er*:
*I was **more confused than angry** when the travel agent explained the complaints procedure to us.*
*The comedy we watched on our flight was **more dark than funny**.*