Comparisons

1 Read the following sentences that describe two people, places or things. Rewrite each sentence changing the adjective given to a comparative.

1 Carla is an intermediate diver. Gina is an advanced diver and has three medals from diving competitions. (good)
2 Charlie was a great footballer, and scored at least two goals every match. Jamie was a good footballer and scored a lot of goals, but not every match. (talented)
3 Robert really wants to go to university to study medicine to be a hospital doctor. Rosie wants to travel round Europe and then see what happens. (ambitious)
4 It rained heavily today, but only for a few hours. The rain yesterday was so bad that it caused floods. (bad)
5 Euan is always smiling and having fun. Bobbie often looks sad and lonely. (happy)
6 The lecture this week was fantastic - so full of information. Last week's lecture was quite dull. (interesting)
7 It's so quiet living in the country. The city is a very noisy place to live. (noisy)
8 I couldn't carry on up the mountain - it was too scary looking down. Jemma carried on and felt absolutely fine (brave)

2 Rewrite the sentences you wrote in Ex. 1 using (not) as.......as.

3 Choose six well known people using the information below.

• two people from the world of music
• two people from the world of films and theatre
• two people from the world of sport

Write three sentences for each person comparing them with the other person from that world you have chosen. Use comparatives, modifiers (a bit/much) ....than and (not) as.......as.

4 In pairs take turns to describe your people to each other. Can your partner guess who you are describing?
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TEACHER’S NOTES:

Aim: to consolidate comparatives and also the can do statement - comparing people. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 4.1.

Time: 40 minutes maximum

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student.

1. Tell students to write sentences using the information provided in 1-8. Explain that they have to use comparisons based on the adjective next to the sentences. If necessary do number 1 with the class as an example. Give students time to compare their answers with a partner before checking them with the class.

   **Answers:** 1 Gina is a better diver than Carla. 2 Charlie was more talented than Jamie. 3 Robert is more ambitious than Rosie. 4 The rain yesterday was worse than today. 5 Euan is happier than Bobbie. 6 This week’s lecture was more interesting than last week’s. 7 The city is noisier than the country. 8 Jemma was braver than me.

2. Ask students to rewrite their sentences from Ex. 1 using (not) as…..as. Check answers with the whole class.

   **Answers:** 1 Carla is not as good at diving as Gina. 2 Jamie is not as talented as Charlie. 3 Rosie is not as ambitious as Robert. 4 The rain today is not as bad as yesterday. 5 Bobbie is not as happy as Euan. 6 Last week’s lecture was not as interesting as this week’s. 7 The country is not as noisy as the town. 8 I was not as brave as Jemma.

3. This is a freer activity where students think of their own well known figures and then describe them. Monitor their work to check that they have used comparatives and modifiers to make sure they are really putting into practice the language learnt.

4. Students work in pairs and take turns to read out their descriptions and guess who is being described. Monitor and make a note of any difficult but guessable comparisons to read out to the whole class at the end.