

14 Comparing and contrasting

Using “as... as” is a very flexible way to make comparisons. You can use it to compare and contrast quantities and qualities of people, objects, situations, and ideas.

 **New language** “As... as” comparisons

 **Aa Vocabulary** Adjective–noun collocations

 **New skill** Comparing and contrasting

14.1 KEY LANGUAGE “AS... AS” COMPARISONS

You can use “as... as” with an adjective to compare things that are similar and “not as... as” or “not so... as” to contrast things that are different.



Lisa is **as tall as** Marc.



Penny is **not {as so} tall as** Marc.



14.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES “AS... AS” COMPARISONS

You can modify the “as... as” structure to make it more detailed or to add emphasis.



Bottled water is **just as expensive as** coffee.

Emphasizing equality.



The girls were **almost as loud as** the boys.

Comparing similarity.



The movie is **not quite as good as** the book.

This has a very similar meaning to “almost as” but contrasts the difference rather than comparing the similarity.



The bike is **half as long as** the car.

Specific degree of difference.



The mouse is **nowhere near as big as** the bird.

Emphasizing difference.





14.3 LOOK AT THE PICTURES AND MAKE A MODIFIED "AS... AS" COMPARISON, SPEAKING OUT LOUD



The cat is not as big
as the dog.



The phone is _____
expensive _____ the laptop.



The giraffe is _____ tall
_____ the house.



The baby is _____
old _____ the man.



The flower is _____
large _____ the tree.



The pizza is _____
wide _____ the plate.



14.4 KEY LANGUAGE "AS... AS" COMPARISONS WITH ADVERBS

You can also use the "as... as" structure with adverbs, often followed by expressions of ability or possibility.

I don't visit **as often as** my sister.

We sang **as loudly as** possible.

He arrived **as early as** he could.

The boys study **as hard as** the girls.



14.5 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Which is more expensive?

The soup The steak

③ Which is bigger?

The old house The new house

① Which is funnier?

The old video The new video

④ Who is smarter?

Simon Andrew

② Which is faster?

The motorcycle The car

⑤ How frequently does Akiko visit now?

More often Less often



14.6 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

The young baby's father is called...

Sam Zach Jon

1 The mother of the baby is...

a teacher a lawyer unemployed

2 The person on parental leave from work is...

Sam Zach Jon

3 When Samantha walks to work it takes...

35 mins 40 mins 45 mins

4 Samantha does not walk to work if the weather is...

cold windy rainy

5 Most days Samantha walks to work...

alone with a friend with her family

6 Her friends and family think her decision is...

stupid good bad

FAMILY LIFE

A different approach

The surprise benefits of shared parental leave
by Samantha Pope

The new "shared parental leave" law is great for my family. As a lawyer I earn twice as much as my husband, Jon, who is a teacher. This meant that we were going to pay a high price for me taking a career break at this time. I returned to work quite soon after our baby, Zach, was born, and Jon has taken parental leave from his work to be at home.

Of course, I still share lots of time with Zach. Because Jon is a heavy sleeper, I wake up to do nighttime duties. This does

make me a bit tired, but a strong coffee in the morning and a quick walk to work (unless there's heavy rain) normally wakes me up. In the morning, Jon and Zach usually walk with me through the park. We were surprised to discover that this 40-minute walk is actually almost as quick as me driving the car in heavy traffic at rush hour.

I was worried that my friends and family would have a low opinion of me going back to work as soon as I did, but in the end everyone agreed with us.

Aa

14.7 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL TO CREATE COLLOCATIONS

Every time I walk to work I get caught in **heavy** rain.

- 1 Thankfully, our baby is a **strong** sleeper and only wakes once a night.
- 2 The commute to work takes ages, even when there is **heavy** traffic.
- 3 Feeling sick every day is a **heavy** price to pay for going on a cruise.
- 4 I only really wake up in the morning after a **strong** coffee.
- 5 My mother has a **strong** opinion of anyone who doesn't work hard.

TIP

Words that collocate with an adjective often collocate with its opposite. For example, "heavy rain" and "light rain."

heavy

strong

high

low

heavy

light



14.8 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

Alex and Sue are both chefs. Sue owns a café and Alex works in a famous restaurant. Sue's cooking is just as good as Alex's, maybe even better, although his cooking is mostly savory and she has a sweet tooth. Unfortunately, just because her food costs much as his, some people do not have as an opinion of her skills. Her café is seen as somewhere with prices to grab a bite to eat, not somewhere to wine and dine. Sue says this is a small price to pay for owning her own business. Some people just like to go out of their way to pay as much as they should for a three-course meal in Alex's restaurant, rather than enjoy a delicious piece of cake or pastry in Sue's café.

as

half as

high

as

twice as

low

as

just as



Aa

14.9 MATCH THE DEFINITIONS TO THE PHRASES

a meal with three parts, often an appetizer, main, and dessert

1 a liking for sweet-tasting things

2 get food that can be eaten quickly

3 entertain or treat someone to an expensive meal

4 salty or spicy rather than sweet

5 make a special effort to do something

savory

wine and dine

three-course meal

go out of your way

sweet tooth

grab a bite to eat



14 CHECKLIST

"As... as" comparisons

Aa Adjective-noun collocations

Comparing and contrasting