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QUESTIONS

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TODAY'S TOP QUESTION: I want to study a foreign language. Can I learn one language more easily than another?

AND THE TOP FIVE ANSWERS:



The simple answer to this question is whichever language is closer to your own. For example, if you're a Spanish speaker, you learn Italian more quickly than German.



I've studied five languages and I didn't learn English as easily as the others. I found it more difficult to learn.



Which are you motivated to learn? The more motivated you are, the easier it is to learn.



I totally agree 😊 And once you've got the basics, find a friend who speaks the language. You'll learn more quickly that way.



Don't forget that once you know two or three languages, it gets easier and easier.

Presentation

Comparison: adverbs

Comparative forms are used to compare two things or people. They are used to:

- say that one thing has more or less of a quality than the other:
You can learn Spanish more quickly than Portuguese.
- talk about change:
They're working harder this term.

We form most comparative adverbs with *more/less* + adverb (+ *than*):

*I can remember words **more quickly** than you.*

*You do homework **less often** than me!*

Some comparative adverbs are irregular and have the same spelling as comparative adjectives:

good/well → *better*, *bad/badly* → *worse*, *far* → *further*,
fast → *faster*, *hard* → *harder*, *high* → *higher*, *early* → *earlier*,
late → *later*, *soon* → *sooner*.

(not) as + adverb + as

You can also make comparisons with (*not*) *as* + adverb + *as*. *Not* normally goes with the verb.

*I forget new words **as quickly as** I learn them!*

*I **didn't** learn English **as easily as** the other languages.*

Comparison: patterns

You can use different patterns to add emphasis to the comparison.

- We use comparative + *and* + comparative to emphasize a process of change:
*It's getting **easier and easier**.*
*She worked **less and less** enthusiastically.*
- Use two comparative expressions with *the* to explain how one thing changes in relation to another:
***The older** you are, **the harder** it is. (= As you get older, it gets more difficult.)*
***The more confident** you feel, **the better** you learn.*

Exercises

1 Match 1–6 with a–f.

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 With practice you'll play | a hard as I thought it would be. |
| 2 The heavier they are, | b and less reliably. |
| 3 This class isn't as | c high as me. |
| 4 As it gets older, my car runs less | d better. |
| 5 You don't jump as | e often than us. |
| 6 Our neighbours go out more | f the harder they fall. |

2 Complete these sentences with the correct form of the adverb in brackets.

- My sister learns languages more quickly than me. (quickly)
- We both play the guitar than anyone else in the school. (well)
- You go to university every day but I only go twice a week. I go than you. (often)
- You can walk We aren't in a rush! (slowly)
- This flight always takes off than it's scheduled to. (late)
- Please can you speak! This is a library and people are trying to study. (quietly)
- I'm sure the people who write these exams are making the questions every year. (hard)
- In the modern Olympics, the athletes are jumping than anyone in the past. (high)
- A: Hurry up!
B: I'm coming as as I can! (quickly)
- I speak Italian than him but not as as her. (badly)

3 Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

biggest	difficult	happier	happiest	harder	least	less (x2)	longer
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- It's getting more and more to find a good job. There are none advertised in the newspaper.
- The you wait, the it gets. So start learning a new language today!
- The enthusiastic students always have the problems.
- I've never felt than I do now. I have everything I could possibly want in life.
- It was one of the days of her life. She had always wanted to be a mother.
- She has been working and enthusiastically over the last year.