



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ

English I

Course Unit 8: Reading and Grammar 5

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Grammar 5: Comparisons – Passive voice

A. COMPARISONS

Examples

Study the sentences below and answer the questions

- Which words are in the *comparative* and which ones are in the *superlative* form?
 - In which sentence is the comparison made in a *different way*?
- a. Henri Poincaré pointed out that sometimes the final condition might be greater than the initial one.
 - b. A small change in the initial condition of the system can lead to more serious phenomena.
 - c. Aspects of chaos theory show up in all areas of our lives, from the smallest to the biggest.
 - d. Chaos theory will be one of the greatest discoveries of 20th century.
 - e. The flapping of a butterfly's wings can eventually cause something as dramatic as a tornado.

Grammar reference: [p. 4](#)

Exercises

- A. Most underlined words in the sentences above are examples of comparative and superlative forms. How much do you know about comparatives and superlatives? Fill in the gaps in the two charts below.

Adjectives

	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Short adjectives	Early Strong Hot	1 Stronger 3	The earliest 2 The hottest
4 adjectives	Important 5	More important 6	The most important The most expensive
Irregular adjectives	Many / Much 8 Good Bad Far	7 Less 9 Worse 11	The most The least The best 10 The furthest/the farthest

Adverbs

	Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Adverbs with the same form as adjectives	Early	1.....	earliest
	2.....	Faster	fastest
	Near	3.....
Adverbs that end in -ly	Carefully	More 5.....	6..... carefully
	Easily	7.....	8.....
Irregular adverbs	9.....	Better	The best
	Badly	10.....	The worst
	Far	Farther/Further	The farthest/furthest

B. Correct the mistakes.

1. I learn vocabulary more fast than I learn grammar.
2. For me, English grammar is more easier than French grammar.
3. My Spanish is badder than my French.
4. The importantest language for international business is English.
5. He drives a lot more fastly now that he got a new car.
6. I don't speak Spanish as good as I want to.
7. I work more effective in the morning.
8. For me, the bus is not so convenient like my car.

B. PASSIVE VOICE

Theory

Passive voice is used when the person who does an action is *unknown* or *not important*.

Form:

be (in any tense) + past participle of the verb. The *object* of an active sentence verb becomes the *subject* of the passive sentence verb. Also, we can use 'by' to show who does the action, *if it's necessary*.

For example:

Active voice: Edward Lorenz (*subject*) first described the modern form of chaos theory (*object*).

Passive voice: The modern form of chaos theory (*subject*) **was first described by Edward Lorenz**.

Active voice: We (*subject*) can use chaos models to plan traffic flow.

Passive voice: Chaos models (*subject*) **can be used** to plan traffic flow. (we don't need 'by us' here)

Active voice: People say that the movement of a butterfly's wings in S. America can cause a tornado in Africa.

Passive voice: ***It is said that*** the movement of a butterfly's wings in S. America can cause a tornado in Africa. (this is an impersonal passive phrase which replaces the phrase 'People say')

Exercises

C. Change the following sentences from active into passive voice. Use 'by' only when it is necessary. Sometimes the beginning is given to help you.

1. The movement of a butterfly's wings in S. America can cause a tornado in Africa.
A tornado in Africa

2. The mathematician Henri Poincaré first described chaos theory.
Chaos theory

3. Edward Lorenz developed a system to predict cycles and changes in weather conditions.
A system

4. We call this phenomenon "butterfly effect."
.....

5. People say that chaos theory will be one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.
.....

Grammar reference

Comparisons

- We use comparatives to compare two things, or to compare the same thing at different times:
 - *Lisa works **harder than** anyone else*
 - *Hans is **taller than** me*
 - *Train tickets are **more expensive** now*
- To give more information about a comparison, we can add a word or phrase before the comparative:
 - *This restaurant is **a lot / far / much** more expensive than the one we went yesterday*
 - *This year the production is **a bit / a little / slightly** better*
- We use superlatives to show that something is different from all other things it is compared to:
 - *They're building **the fastest** jet in the world*
 - *Lisa is **the most efficient** person in the organization*
 - *That was **the best** journey I've ever had*
- We form comparative and superlative *adverbs* in a similar way to adjectives:
 - *You should drive **more carefully***
 - *She arrived **earlier** than we expected*
 - *I work **most efficiently** early in the day*
 - *The prime minister spoke **most enthusiastically** about her work*
- When we compare things we can also use *(not) as...as* with adjectives and adverbs:
- ... *(not) as* + adjective + *as*
 - *Vicenza is still **as beautiful as** it was when I first went there*
 - *He's **not as good as** he used to be.*
- ... *(not) as* + adverb + *as*
 - *I didn't have **as much time as** I thought I would*

Form

- **Comparatives**
 - **short adjective / adverb + -er (+ than)** (see also: **Irregular adjectives and adverbs**).

- *Tom is smarter **than** Lucy*
- *Tom works **harder than** Lucy*

☐ **more + long adjective / adverb (+ than).**

- *Ticket prices are **more expensive** now **than** last year*
- *I work **more efficiently** in the morning **than** in the evening*

• **Superlatives**

☐ **the + short adjective / adverb + -est** (see also: **Irregular adjectives and adverbs**).

- *This is **the smartest** student in the class*
- *Tom works **the hardest** of all*

☐ **the most + long adjective / adverb.**

- *That's **the most expensive** present I've ever got*
- *I work **most efficiently** early in the morning*

Irregular adjectives and adverbs

- many/much - more - the most
- little - less - the least
- good/well - better - the best
- bad/badly - worse - the worst
- far - farther/further - the farthest/the furthest

Answers to the exercises

Examples

- a. comparative
- b. comparative
- c. superlative
- d. superlative
- e. comparison made in a different way: as....as

Exercise A

Adjectives

1. earlier
2. the strongest
3. hotter
4. Long
5. Expensive
6. more expensive
7. more
8. little
9. better
10. the worst
11. farther / further

Adverbs

1. earlier
2. fast
3. nearer
4. the nearest
5. carefully
6. the most
7. more easily
8. the most easily
9. well
10. worse

Exercise B

1. faster than
2. easier than

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3. worse than
4. The most important
5. a lot faster
6. as well as
7. more effectively
8. is not as convenient as

Exercise C

1. A tornado in Africa can be caused by the movement of a butterfly's wings in S. America.
2. Chaos theory was first described by the mathematician Henri Poincaré.
3. A system to predict cycles and changes in weather conditions was developed by Edward Lorenz. / A system was developed by Edward Lorenz to predict cycles and changes in weather conditions.
4. This phenomenon is called 'butterfly effect.'
5. It is said that chaos theory will be one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.