

Gramática

IV. Los comparativos y los superlativos

***Comparatives involve *two* entities that can be compared (as the same or equal) or contrasted (as different or unequal). Superlatives involve *three or more* entities, one of which is set apart in contrast to all other entities in the group.

El Arrecife Mesoamericano es **extenso**.

The mesoamerican Barrier Reef is **extensive**.

Sin embargo, es **menos extenso que** el Gran Arrecife Coralino de Australia.

However, it is **less extensive than** the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.

El Gran Arrecife Coralina de Australia es **el más extenso del mundo**.

The Great Barrier Reef of Australia is **the most extensive (one) in** the world.

El Arrecife Mesoamericano es **el segundo más extenso del mundo**.

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is **the second most extensive (one) in** the world

A. Formación y uso: los comparativos

***When two entities are compared as *the same or equal*, Spanish uses the words **tan** or **tanto/a/s** and **como**. The use of **tan** or **tanto/a/s** varies, depending on whether the comparison involves an adjective, adverb, noun, or verb. Adjectives always agree with the nouns they modify, as highlighted in the examples below.

tan + adjective + como

La isla de Roatán es **tan bella como** la isla de Cozumel.
*The island of Roatan is **as lovely as** the island of Cozumel.*

tan + adverb + como

La gente de Roatán camina **tan lentamente como** la gente de Cozumel.
*The people of Roatan walk **as slowly as** the people of Cozumel.*

tanto/a/s + noun+ como

Roatán tiene **tantos peces tropicales como** Cozumel.
*Roatan has **as many tropical fish as** Cozumel.*

verb + **tanto como**

La gente de Roatán **bucea tanto como** la gente de Cozumel.
*The people of Roatan **scuba dive as much as** the people of Cozumel.*

***When two entities are contrasted as *different* or *unequal*, Spanish uses the words **más** or **menos** and **que/de** with an adjective, adverb, noun, or verb.

más/menos + adjective + **que**

Un avión es **más caro que** un yate.
*A plane is **more expensive than** a yacht.*

adverb

Un avión viaja **más rápidamente que** un yate.
*A plane travels **more rapidly than** a yacht.*

noun

Un avión tiene **más poder que** un yate.
*A plane has **more power than** a yacht.*

verb + **más/menos que**

Un yate **cuesta menos que** un avión.
*A yacht **costs less than** a plane.*

más/menos de
(used when a number follows)

Un yate bien equipado puede costar **más de** \$30.000 dólares.
*A well-equipped yacht can cost **more than** \$30,000 dollars.*

***Some adjectives in Spanish have irregular comparative forms.

mejor (better)

Para mí, el vino blanco es **mejor que** el vino trino.
*For me, white wine **is better than** red wine.*

peor (worse)

Para tí, el vino blanco es **peor que** el vino trino.
*For you, white wine is **worse than** red wine.*

menor (younger, smaller)

Soy **menor que** tú.
*I am **younger than** you.*

mayor (older, larger, greater)

Eres **mayor que** yo.
*You are **older than** I.*

B. Formación y uso: los superlativos

***When *three or more* entities are considered, and one is set apart from the others in the group as having the most or least of some quality, Spanish uses the structure below.

definite article + (noun +) **más/menos** + adjective + **de**

El Mar Caribe es **el** (mar) **más** bonito **de** todos.

*The Caribbean Sea is **the loveliest** (sea) of all.*

***Adjectives with irregular comparative forms precede the noun they modify.

definite article + adjective + (noun +) **de**

Mi ciudad es *la* mejor (ciudad) **de todas**.

My city is *the best* (city) **of all**.