

COMPARISONS (比较)

A comparison (名词) is when two or more things are compared (动词) with each other. This handout will show many different comparative (形容词) grammar patterns, in a comparatively (副词) small space. When comparing, it is important to differentiate (区分) between statements of fact (事实) and of opinion (看法). When stating an opinion, it is best to begin with "I think..." (我看。。。), "I believe..." or "I feel that..." (我认为。。。) and then make the comparison.

BASIC FORMS (基础的结构)

1. **A is Adj.-er than B.** OR 2. **A is more Adj. than B.** (A 比 B 形容词。)

When are forms 1 and 2 used? When the adjective (Adj. / 形容词) is a short word, such as "big", "-er" may be added to the end of the word (to make words like "bigger", "smaller", "faster", "slower", etc.). I.e. 1. China is *bigger* than the USA.

When the adjective is a long word, such as "beautiful", the word "more" must be used before it, as the word "beautifuler" does not exist (不存在). I.e. 2. She thinks Hong Kong is more beautiful than Beijing. It usually sounds strange (奇怪) when the word "more" is put in front of short adjectives. (No native speaker would ever say "China is more big than the USA".) There are some adjectives, however, which can be used with either form, and sometimes short words, such as "fun" (好玩儿), must use the second form.

3. **A is not as Adj. as B.** OR 4. **A is less Adj. than B.** (A 没有 B [的] 形容词。)

When speaking, form 3 is used more often than form 4, as many adjectives sound strange when used in form 4. i.e. 3. She is not as tall as he is. 4. Bicycles are less expensive than cars.

Note that when speaking of quality (质量) in terms of "good" or "bad", one must use the words "better" or "worse" to compare in forms 1 and 2, but not 3 or 4.

To say *how much* more or less Adj. something is, we can use a few, simple adverbs (副词). **A 比 B 形容词 得多 / 多了 / 一点。 = A is much / a lot / a little (more) Adj.(-er) than B.** i.e. China is a little bigger than the USA. She thinks Hong Kong is much / a lot more beautiful than Beijing. She is not quite as tall as he is (not quite = 差一点点). Bicycles are much less expensive than cars.

FOOD AND DRINK (菜和饮料)

To say "**A 比 B 好吃/喝**", we cannot say "**A is more delicious than B**" because "delicious" already means "很好吃" or "very good to eat" (rarely do we use "delicious" to describe [描述] a drink). If you are comparing two things which you don't really like (不怎么喜欢) to eat (or drink), such as vodka (伏特加) and beer (啤酒), to say that one is more delicious than the other is to say that you like them both a lot (when in fact you only want to say one is less disgusting [讨厌]). When comparing the flavors (味道) of foods and drinks, it is best to use this form:

1. **(I think) A tastes better than B.** i.e. I think Chinese food tastes better than western food. (我觉得中餐比西餐好吃。)
2. **(I don't think) A tastes as good as B.** OR **(I think) A doesn't taste as good as B.** i.e. I don't think western food tastes as good as Chinese food. OR I think western food doesn't taste as good as Chinese food.

For our drink example above, we could say: I think beer tastes better than vodka, but I don't really like to drink either one.

NUMBERS AND UNITS (数字和单元)

For more exact (精确) comparisons, the following (下面的) forms are used to show the number of units by which **A** and **B** are different. Units often used include (包括): PERIODS OF TIME (时间) such as years, months, weeks, etc., LENGTHS (长度) such as meters, inches, feet, miles, millimeters, etc., and WEIGHTS (重量) such as grams, kilograms, pounds, ounces, etc., and SIZES (大小) of clothes, etc.

1. **A is # Units (more) Adj.(-er) than B.** (A 比 B 形容词 数字 单元。) i.e. She is two years older than I am. (她比我大两岁。) Cars are thousands of dollars more expensive than bicycles. (汽车比自行车贵几千美元。)

To show a relatively (相对的) large difference we can say the multiple (倍数) of the difference. Note (注意) that the word "twice" is often used to say "两倍" instead of "two times".

2. **A is # times (more) Adj.(-er) than B.** OR 3. **A is # times as Adj. as B.** (A 比 B 形容词 数字 倍。) i.e. Cars are 100 times more expensive than bicycles. Cars are 100 times as expensive as bicycles. My parents are two times older than I am. My parents are twice as old as I am. (我父母的年龄比我的大两倍。)

MUCH, MANY, MORE (多)

To say "**A 比 B 多**" is very complicated (复杂) in English. This kind of sentence will often begin with "There is" or "There are", depending on whether the noun (名词) being compared is a non-count or count noun (可数的名词). To say how much/many more of something there is/are, the adverbs in parentheses () can be added. For non-count nouns, a number and a unit may replace the adverb. A number alone may replace the adverb in sentences with a count noun.

Non-count: **There is (a little/a bit, much/a lot, a great deal) more/less A than B.** i.e. There is a lot more water than land on earth. (地球的水比土地多得多。)

Count: **There are (a couple, a few, several, many/a lot, far/way) more/less/fewer A than B.** i.e. There are many more people in the east of China than in the west. (中国东部的人比西部多得多。)

To emphasize (强调) *what* something (Sth.) has more or less of, the following form may also be used, with the same adverbs and numbers as above (上面):

A has more/less/fewer Sth. than B. i.e. The earth has much more water than land.

To emphasize *what place* has more or less of something, we can use this form:

There is/are more/less/fewer Sth. in A than (in) B. i.e. There is a great deal more rain in Sichuan than in Gansu. (在四川下雨比甘肃多得多。)

(THE) MOST (最)

The superlative (最高级的) forms of adverbs and adjectives show the #1 highest degree of something. Note that when speaking of quality (质量) in terms of “good” or “bad”, one must use the words “best” or “worst”. Adding what kind of noun A is, what A is being compared to are both optional (随意的) but may add clarity (清楚).

1. **A is the (most) Adj.(-est) (名词) (in the...).** I.e. Russia is the biggest country in the world. (俄罗斯是世界上最大的国家。) We all think she is the most beautiful. (我们都觉得她是最漂亮的。) His grades are the worst in his class. (他的成绩是在他的班最低。)
2. **A 动词 the (most) Adj.(-est) (in the...).** I.e. She speaks the most quietly in the class. (她在这个班说话说的最安静。)
3. **A is (more) Adj.(er) than any other 名词.** I.e. Russia is bigger than any other country. (俄罗斯比所有其他国家都大。)
4. **A 动词 more 副词 than any other 名词.** I.e. He plays basketball better than any other student. (他打篮球打得比所有其它的学生都好。) Gansu has sunny days more often than any other province. (甘肃晴朗的天比所有别的省都多。)

THE SAME (一样)

To say two things are equally (相等的) something, we can use these forms:

1. **A and B are equally 形容词.** OR 2. **A is (just/exactly) as 形容词 as B.** i.e. She and I are equally smart. She is just as smart as I am. (她和我一样聪明。)
3. **There is/are (just/exactly) as much/many A as B.** i.e. There is just as much salt as there is sugar. (盐和糖一样多。) There are as many boys as girls. (男生和女生一样多。)
4. **A 动词 (just/exactly) as 副词 as B (does).** i.e. She plays soccer as well as they do. (她踢足球和他们一样好。)

Adding “just” or “exactly” before the first “as” means they are 刚好一样形容词。

BOTH, ALL, NEITHER, NONE (都/都不)

We often group things together (使某人/某事物集合) which are the same, do or don't do the same thing. Which word we use depends on whether there are two or more nouns being grouped and whether the group does or does not do (is/isn't) something.

2 Nouns: 1. **A and B are both...** OR **Both A and B are...** 2. **A and B both 动词.** OR **Both A and B 动词.** I.e. 1. (Both) She and I are (both) 21 years old. (她和我都二十一岁。) 2. (Both) Cats and dogs (both) eat meat. (猫和狗都吃肉。) 1. They are both boys. Both of them are boys. (他们两个都是男生。) 2. We both speak English. Both of us speak English. (我们两个都说英语。)

3 or More Nouns: 3. **(A, B, C, etc.) are all...** 4. **(A, B, C, etc.) all 动词.** I.e. 3. She, her friend, and I are all 21. 4. Cats, dogs, and tigers all eat meat. 3. They are all boys. All of them are boys. (他们[3个多]都是男生。) 4. We all speak English. All (three, four, etc.) of us speak English. (我们[3个多]都说英语。)

2 Nouns: 5. **Neither A or/nor B is...** 6. **Neither A or/nor B 动词.** I.e. 5. Neither China or Japan is a western country. (中国和日本都不是西方的国家。) 6. Neither she nor I drink tea. Neither of us drinks tea. (她和我都不喝茶。我们两个都不喝茶。)

3 or More Nouns: 7. **None of (us, them, these, those) is/are...** 8. **None of (us, them, these, those) 动词.** None of these pens are red. (在这些笔中没有一只红色的。) None of them can speak Cantonese. (他们都不会说广东话。)

VERBS (动词) AND ADVERBS (副词)

To compare how well, much, often, etc. two people or things do something, the adverb “more” can often be put before the adverb which modifies (修饰) the main verb (主要的动词). When comparing quality, however, “more” is replaced by “better” or “worse”. Note that verbs like “look” and “seem” are modified by adjectives, so they do not use these forms.

1. **A 动词 (a little/a bit, much/a lot, a great deal/far/way) more 副词 than B (does).** I.e. She works far more quickly than they do. (她工作比他们快多了。) Chinese people play ping pong a lot better than I do. (中国人打乒乓球打得比我好得多。) He eats a bit more than she does. (他吃得比她多一点。)

2. **A does not 动词 (quite, nearly, even close to) as 副词 as B (does).** I.e. They do not work even close to as quickly as she does. I don't play ping pong nearly as well as Chinese people do. She doesn't eat quite as much as he does.