

Communicative Resources B2 TEENS:

UNIT 2: Comparatives and Superlatives in English

Comparatives and Superlatives in English

Formation Rules

Rule	In one-syllable adjectives and adverbs, we add '-er' to form the comparative and 'the' + '-est' to form the superlative.
Example	Tall – taller – the tallest.
Own Example	
Rule	If the last three letters of the adjective are consonant – vowel – consonant, we double the last consonant.
Example	Big – bigger – the biggest
Own Example	
Rule	We add '-r' and 'the -st' if the adjective/adverb ends in '-e'.
Example	Nice – nicer – the nicest
Own Example	
Rule	When the adjective or adverb ends in '-y', we change it for an '-i', and add '-er' or 'the -est'.
Example	Shy – shier – the shiest
Own Example	
Rule	In more than one-syllable adjectives and adverbs, we add 'more' to form the comparative and 'the most' to form the superlative. Quietly: more quietly, the most quietly. Hard: harder, the hardest.
Example	Convenient – more convenient – the most convenient
Own Example	
Rule	There are adjectives that accept both '-er and 'more' to form the comparative and '-est' and 'the -est' to form the superlative: Clever, common, dirty, friendly, gentle, likely, narrow, pleasant, polite, quiet, simple, stupid, tired.
Example	Common – commoner/more common – the commonest/the most common

Own Example	
Rule	Adverbs follow the same rules as adjectives; In one-syllable adverbs, we add '-er' to form the comparative and '-est' to form the superlative; when more than one syllable, we add 'more' and 'the -est': Quietly: more quietly, the most quietly. Hard: harder, the hardest.
Example	I arrived later than yesterday
Own Example	
Rule	Irregular cases. Bad- worse – the worst Good – better – the best Far – farther/further – the farthest/ furthest
Example	I am better than you are. This is worse than the last one. I lived farther away now.
Own Example	
Rule	Negative Comparative: 'less + ADJECTIVE/ADVERB'
Example	I am less empathetic than my brother. My sister is less tall than me.
Own Example	
Rule	Negative Superlative: 'the least + ADJECTIVE/ADVERB'
Example	The tallest – the least tall; the most dangerous – the least dangerous.
Own Example	

Structures of Use

X	
NOUN	The students, my friends and I, the shop assistant, etc.
SUBJECT PRONOUN	I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they.
DEMONSTRATIVE	That, this, these, those (+ noun).
GERUND	Waking up early, having missed it, etc.
(WH-) (NOUN) SVO	Where I live, what she said; how you do it, etc.

Y	
NOUN	The students, my friends and I, the shop assistant, etc.
OBJECT PRONOUN	Me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them.
DEMONSTRATIVE	That, this, these, those (+ noun).
GERUND	Waking up early, having missed it, etc.
(WH-) (NOUN) SVO	Where I live, what she said; how you do it, etc.

Structure	X + (not) to be + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE (than Y)
Example	- o I am taller than him. - o Running a marathon is harder than waking up early in the morning. - o What we have seen yesterday is easier than what we have seen today.
Own Example	
Structure	X + (not) to be + EMPHASISER + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE (than Y) Low Degree Emphasisers: a bit, a little, slightly. High Degree Emphasisers: (so) much, (quite) a lot, far, way.
Example	- o I am far taller than him. - o We are slightly faster than them. - o She is much taller than him.
Own Example	

Structure	X + (not) to be + (just) as/so ADJECTIVE (as Y)
Example	- o This tool is just as efficient as the other one. - o This is not so difficult as the other one.
Own Example	
Structure	X + (not) to be + as/so ADJECTIVE (as Y)
Example	- o This winter is not so cold as last winter. - o This unit is not as easy as the previous one.
Own Example	
Structure	X + (not) to be + such a/an ADJECTIVE + NOUN (as Y)
Example	- o I am not such a good swimmer as my brother. - o This is not such a difficult thing as you thought - o Barca is not such a good team now (as with Messi). - o Learning English isn't such a difficult thing as you thought. - o Having two exams is not such a hard thing to do as having 7 projects to submit.
Own Example	
Structure	X + (not) to be + quite as/so ADJECTIVE (as Y)
Example	- o I am not quite as confident as I was yesterday. - o Today, it is not as cloudy as yesterday. - o Today, I am not as sleepy as I was yesterday
Own Example	
Structure	X + (not) to be + nearly as ADJECTIVE (as Y)
Example	- o I am nearly as tall as my brother. - o I am not nearly as tall as my brother.
Own Example	

Structure	Existential 'there' plural + as many COUNTABLE PLURAL NOUN (+ as + Time Adverb/SV(O))
Example	- There are as many teachers as last year. - There aren't as many options as last year.
Own Example	

Structure	Existential 'there' singular + as much UNC. SINGULAR NOUN (+ as + Time Adverb/SV(O))
Example	- There is as much pressure as last year. - There is as much humidity as there was last week.
Own Example	

Structure	Subject + Verb + as many COUNTABLE PLURAL NOUN (as + Time adverb/SV(O))
Example	- I have as many students as the other school. - I do as many exercises as my brother. - I work as many hours as my friends.
Own Example	

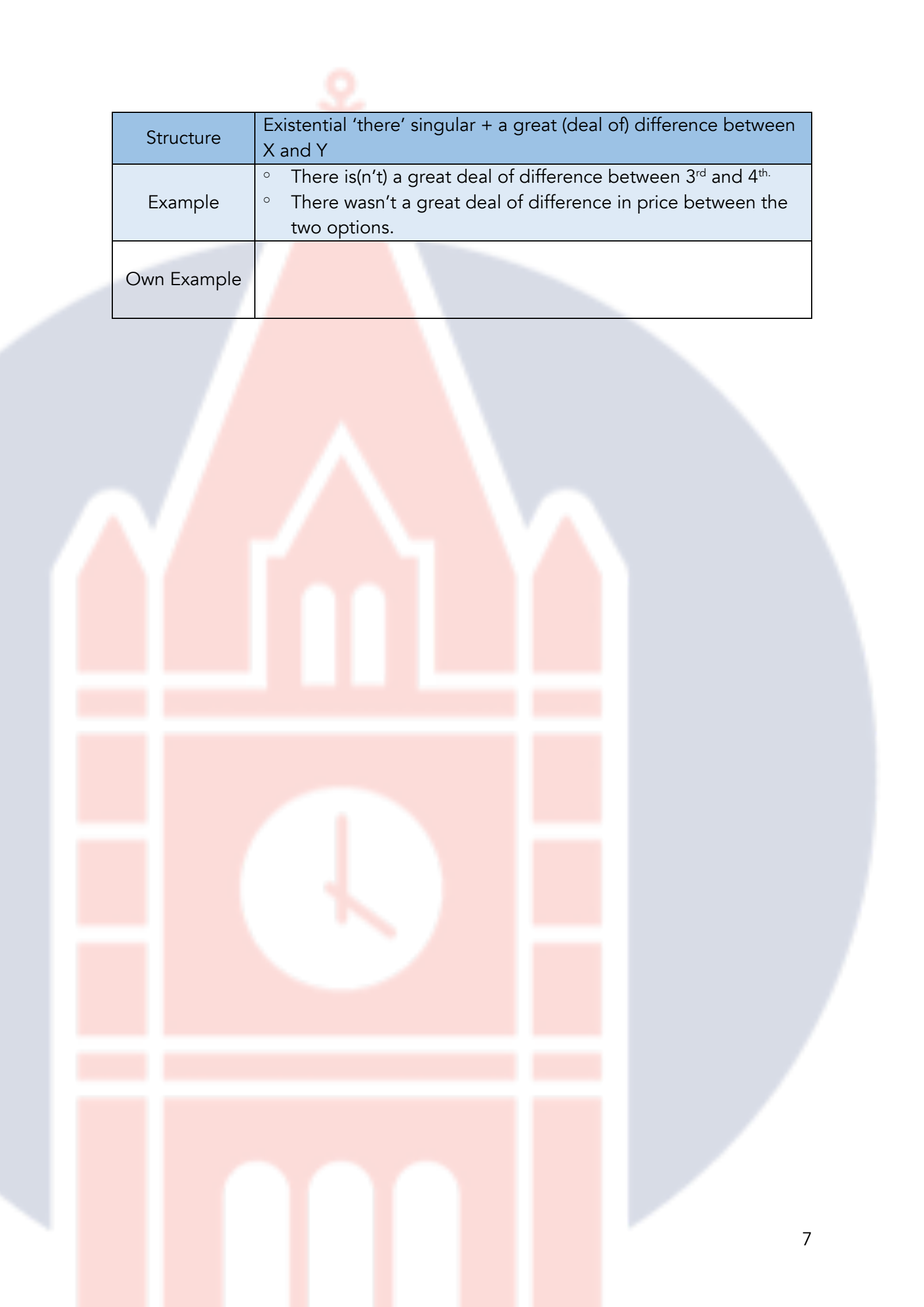
Structure	Subject + Verb + as MUCH UNCOUNTABLE SINGULAR NOUN (as + Time adverb/SV(O))
Example	- I have as much pressure as an adult. - We don't have as much sugar as the recipe needs.
Own Example	

Structure	(Not) to be + the same size/age/height/length as + Noun/Pron.
Example	- This t-shirt is the same size as the other one. - I am not the same age as my brother. - I am the same height of a 1L water bottle. - This pool is the same length as the one in my local club.
Own Example	

Structure	(Not) to be + the same size/age/height/length as + Noun/Pron.
Example	- This t-shirt is the same size as the other one. - I am not the same age as my brother. - I am the same height of a 1L water bottle. - This pool is the same length as the one in my local club.
Own Example	

Structure	The + comparative adjective, the + comparative adjective
Example	○ The more difficult, the better. ○ The more difficult, the less entertaining. ○ The more difficult, the harder it will be. ○ The more difficult, the less interesting.
Own Example	

Structure	The more/less (noun) + SVO, THE more/less (noun)+ SVO
Example	○ The more pasta I eat, the more I like it. ○ The more I travel, the more I want to be home with my mommy. ○ The more matches I see, the more I like football. ○ The more I like basket, the less I like football. ○ The more time I spend with people, the more I like my dog.
Own Example	
Structure	'Subject + Verb + more of a/an + noun' in the following phrases: ○ To make more of a/an effort/difference/impact/effect ○ To pose/be/become/have more of a/an problem, challenge, danger, threat/impact/effect + to/than
Example	○ The new policy made more of an impact than previous attempts to solve the problem. ○ Students are making more of an effort than last year. ○ This natural disaster poses more of a danger than any other. ○ This situation poses more of a challenge than any other we have lived before.
Own Example	
Structure	To be + by far + superlative adjective/adverb
Example	○ This is by far the most difficult exam. ○ This is by far the best team.
Own Example	



Structure	Existential 'there' singular + a great (deal of) difference between X and Y
Example	◦ There is(n't) a great deal of difference between 3rd and 4th. ◦ There wasn't a great deal of difference in price between the two options.
Own Example	