



Advanced Adjectives and Comparisons — B2 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The new premises are ____ more expensive than the ones we left.
A) very B) too C) considerably D) so
2. The revised model is only ____ faster, which hardly justifies the price.
A) marginally B) far C) much D) a great deal
3. The sequel was ____ as good as the original, whatever the reviewers said.
A) far B) nowhere near C) much D) a lot
4. The exam was ____ as difficult as everyone had warned us it would be.
A) much B) far C) considerably D) not nearly
5. The generic drug is ____ as effective as the branded version.
A) far B) much C) just D) very
6. Housing in the city is becoming ____ affordable with every passing year.
A) less and less B) the less the less C) little and little D) lesser and lesser
7. ____ the delay, the higher the eventual cost to the taxpayer.
A) Longer B) The longer C) More long D) As long as
8. By the time we found the hotel we were ____ exhausted.
A) very B) extremely C) rather D) absolutely
9. Which sentence is INCORRECT?
A) The response was absolutely extraordinary. B) The response was quite extraordinary.
C) The response was truly extraordinary. D) The response was very extraordinary.
10. Which is the correct order of adjectives?
A) a leather Italian beautiful old bag B) an old beautiful Italian leather bag
C) a beautiful old Italian leather bag D) an Italian old beautiful leather bag

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. The second flat was _____ more expensive, so we took the first.
2. The two routes differ only _____ in distance — about half a mile.

3. The film was _____ near as frightening as the trailer had promised.
4. The paperwork was not _____ as complicated as I had feared.
5. The own-brand version is _____ as good as the one that costs twice as much.
6. The evenings are drawing in earlier _____ earlier as autumn goes on.
7. The more you practise, the _____ you have to think about it.
8. After eleven hours on the road we were _____ shattered.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. is / expensive. / The / far / model / new / more

Mark a large difference in price.

2. slightly / The / cheaper. / version / only / is / revised

Mark a small difference.

3. near / nowhere / first. / was / as / the / It / good / as

Say the gap was very large, in the negative.

4. expected. / not / as / nearly / as / The / hard / was / test

Say something fell well short of its reputation.

5. The / as / is / brand / cheaper / effective. / just

Claim exact equality.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **C) considerably** — Very cannot modify a comparative; considerably, far and much all can.
2. **A) marginally** — Marginally marks a very small difference, which is what only signals here.
3. **B) nowhere near** — Nowhere near as ... as expresses a very large gap in the negative direction.
4. **D) not nearly** — Not nearly as ... as means the gap was large and the expectation was wrong.
5. **C) just** — Just as ... as claims exact equality between the two things.
6. **A) less and less** — The doubled comparative describes a change continuing in the same direction.
7. **B) The longer** — The correlative structure requires the before both comparatives.
8. **D) absolutely** — Exhausted is non-gradable, so it takes absolutely rather than very.
9. **D) The response was very extraordinary.** — Extraordinary is already extreme, so very cannot intensify it.
10. **C) a beautiful old Italian leather bag** — Opinion comes before age, age before origin, and origin before material.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **considerably** — This modifier marks a large difference in front of a comparative.
2. **marginally** — This modifier marks a very small difference.
3. **nowhere** — This word plus near as begins a strongly negative comparison of equality.
4. **nearly** — Not nearly as marks a large gap between expectation and reality.
5. **just** — This word before as claims exact equality between two things.
6. **and** — The doubled comparative joins the two forms with this conjunction.
7. **less** — The second half of a proportional structure also carries a comparative after the.
8. **absolutely** — A non-gradable extreme adjective takes an intensifier meaning completely.

C. Sentence building

1. **The new model is far more expensive.**
2. **The revised version is only slightly cheaper.**
3. **It was nowhere near as good as the first.**
4. **The test was not nearly as hard as expected.**
5. **The cheaper brand is just as effective.**