

**Comparison clauses**

They are introduced by subordinating conjunctions like "as ... as, not so/as ... as, comparative + than". These clauses are used to compare two people, things or actions.

**Uses:** there are three types of comparisons. We can compare things to a higher degree, to the same degree and to a lower degree:

1. To a higher degree: **comparative form + than:**

Divorce is more common than it was a generation ago.

Advertisements are slightly longer than they used to be.

2. To the same degree: **as ... as:**

He smokes as much as she does.

John works as hard as Susan does.

3. To a lower degree: **not as/ not so ... as:**

The young boy is not so handsome as the old one is.

The young boy is not as handsome as the old one is.

**Word order:** comparison clauses always have a final position (i.e. after the main clause). The comparative and the first as/so + adjective/adverb belong to the main clause:

subject + main verb (comparative/as/so).../subord. conj. (than/as) + subject + verb:

She is taller than she used to be.

John works as hard as Susan does.

John is not so/as intelligent as Susan is.

\* **Notice:** *as* and *than* are also **prepositions**. Therefore, they can be followed not only by clauses (when used as conjunctions) but also by a noun phrase (typically a noun or object pronoun) when used as prepositions:

She's taller than I am. / She's taller than me.

You're as old as I am. / You're as old as me.

John works as hard as Susan does. / John works as hard as Susan.

John is not so/as intelligent as Susan is. / John is not so/as intelligent as Susan.