

## OVERVIEW

### 1 ADJECTIVES

Adjectives describe nouns. We normally use adjectives in two positions – before nouns and after 'link' verbs (*be, seem, appear, become, feel, look, taste, sound, smell, get, etc.*):

*What a pleasant man! He seemed pleasant.*

- We can use many adjectives in both positions, but we use others in either one position or the other:  
*It was an outright victory. I'm glad you could come.*
- Here are more examples of adjectives commonly used before nouns:  
*countless indoor neighbouring maximum northern*
- Here are examples of adjectives used after verbs:  
*awake content asleep aware glad afraid alive sure alone alike*

### 2 FORMING ADVERBS FROM ADJECTIVES

We can turn most adjectives into adverbs by adding *-ly* (see Section 1.3). There may be spelling variations:

<i>slow</i>	<i>slowly</i>	<i>quick</i>	<i>quickly</i>
<i>possible</i>	<i>possibly</i>	<i>automatic</i>	<i>automatically</i>
<i>easy</i>	<i>easily</i>	<i>satisfactory</i>	<i>satisfactorily</i>
<i>true</i>	<i>truly</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>fully</i>

- We can also form some adverbs from nouns by adding *-ly*:  
*hour hourly part partly*

#### Adjectives and adverbs with the same form

Some adjectives have the same form when they are adverbs:

Adjective	Adverb
<i>I was the first person there.</i>	<i>I arrived first.</i>
<i>That's a fine distinction.</i>	<i>That suits us fine.</i>
<i>The truck hit the low bridge.</i>	<i>The plane swooped low.</i>

- Some adjectives end in *-ly*, like *monthly* and *early*, and have the same form as adjective and adverb. Others can't be transformed into adverbs. Instead we have to use a phrase:  
*He had a friendly attitude.*  
*He behaved in a friendly way.*
- Other adjectives like this include:  
*costly cowardly deadly likely lively lonely silly ugly lovely*

### 3 ADVERBIAL PHRASES

An adverbial phrase (an 'adjunct') is a group of words that works like an adverb to say when, how, etc. something happens. They can be:

- prepositional phrases:  
*Why don't you leave all that on the table?*
- noun phrases:  
*I wouldn't have put it that way.*
- adverb phrases:  
*I think you've all done very well indeed.*

### 4 POSITION AND ORDER OF ADVERBS

We usually put an adverb after an object:

~~✗ I play very well the piano.~~

✓ *I play the piano very well.*

- Adverbs and adverbial phrases usually go at the end of the sentence, and usually in the order 'how' → 'where' → 'when':  
*They were playing quietly in the garden last night.*
- We can move one of these adverbs to the beginning of the sentence for emphasis or focus:  
*Last night they were playing quietly in the garden.* (= focusing on 'when')  
*In the garden, they were all playing quietly.* (= focusing on 'where')
- Adverbs of manner can also go before the verb:  
*The villagers slowly walked round the square.*

### OTHER ADVERBS

We usually put adverbs of frequency (*always, often, etc.*) before the verb or at the end of the phrase:

*I quite often drive past their house.*

*I drive past their house quite often.*

- These adverbs usually go after the first auxiliary verb:

*I've just seen Dominic.*

*I've frequently been swimming with him.*

Note the variety of positions of *still, already*, and *yet*:

*I still haven't finished. I've still not finished.*

*Is she still here?*

*They've already been here. They've been here already.*

*Are they here already? Are they already here?*

*I haven't finished yet. Haven't you finished yet?*

*I haven't yet finished.*

We use *only* and *even* in two main positions:

- before the subject they focus on:  
*I think only John really understands this point.*  
*Even Simon is a bit confused.*
- before the verb:  
*I only like the green ones.*  
*I even think that the red ones are ugly.*

## SECTION I

### Adjective structures; adjective or adverb?

#### 1 ADJECTIVES AFTER NOUNS

We can use some adjectives before and after nouns.

A change in position involves a change of meaning:

the **present** circumstances (= now)

the people **present** (= who are here)

an **involved** explanation (= complicated)

the people **involved** (= who took part)

a **concerned** expression (= worried)

the people **concerned** (= affected)

a **responsible** person (= sensible)

the people **responsible** (= who did it)

- There are a very few adjectives that we can only use after nouns:

presents **galore** the President-**elect**

the Prime Minister **designate**

#### 2 STRUCTURES AFTER ADJECTIVES

We use a to-infinitive after some adjectives following 'link' verbs, e.g. *be*, *feel*, etc:

It's **bound to rain** later. I'm **willing to try**.

I'm **loath to commit** myself. I'm **inclined to agree**.

The situation is **liable to change**. They don't seem **able to help** at the moment. We're **due to arrive** soon. I'm **prepared to compromise**.

- We use a *that*-clause after some adjectives referring to people's beliefs and feelings. (As is normal in *that*-clauses, we can omit *that*):

I'm **pleased (that)** you've found a good job.

Here are more examples of these adjectives:

**aware certain afraid sorry**

**surprised upset worried sad**

**anxious sure frightened confident**

- We use a prepositional phrase after some adjectives. The preposition collocates with the adjective:

Nobody is **immune from** criticism.

Here are more examples:

**ashamed of devoid of integral to subject to descended from lacking in compatible with intent on filled with characteristic of**

#### 3 ADJECTIVE OR ADVERB?

We use some adjectives after link verbs (see Overview, 1). We can normally distinguish between an adjective, which describes the noun, and an adverb, which usually adds information about the verb:

Adjective	Adverb
I got the answer <b>right</b> .	It's easy, as you <b>rightly</b> say.
I think you're <b>wrong</b> .	He was <b>wrongly</b> convicted.
Close the lid <b>tight</b> .	Hold on <b>tightly</b> .
She looks <b>pretty</b> .	She sang very <b>prettily</b> .
Now wipe it <b>clean</b> .	It broke <b>clean</b> in two.

- Some adverbs have two forms: an *-ly* form and one that looks like an adjective. These two forms may have different meanings:

He arrived **late**. (= not on time)

I haven't seen him **lately**. (= recently)

We're flying **direct**. (= by the shortest route)

I'll tell you **directly**. (= immediately)

The dancer leapt **high**. He's **highly** thought of.

It was raining **hard**. It **hardly** matters now.

I like diving **deep**. We **deeply** regret the move.

You've got it all **wrong**. The letter was **wrongly** addressed.

Be there at twelve **sharp**. I was **sharply** reprimanded.

- In informal spoken English, we use some adjectives as adverbs with no change of form, although an *-ly* version exists:  
The boy shouted as **loud** as he could to a passing yacht.
- Adjectives we commonly use in this way include:  
**cheap quick slow kind real**
- Here are some common phrases that use adjectives after verbs:  
He fell **flat on his face**. His jokes **fell flat**. He's still **going strong**. **Hold tight!** **Feel free** to look around.  
**Take it easy!** **Turn sharp right**.

#### ? check

Tick (✓) the sentences that contain adjectives.

- Malaria can be a deadly disease.
- He caught the ball cleanly and passed it to the wing.
- I hit him as hard as I could.
- When are the results due to arrive?
- I think anyone involved in that deal should resign.



## Practice

1 Fill each of the blanks with a suitable adjective from the list.

devoid free certain inclined liable concerned filled elect

- Those ..... with the political implications of the new policy are very worried.
- The outgoing President was accompanied by the President-.....
- I'm ..... to think that it would be better to finish this later.
- These buildings are ..... to collapse in a strong earthquake.
- I was absolutely ..... I'd left it on the table.
- The landscape was completely ..... of any sign of human habitation.
- Please feel ..... to use the phone if you need to.
- The ex-prisoner is ..... with remorse for what he has done.

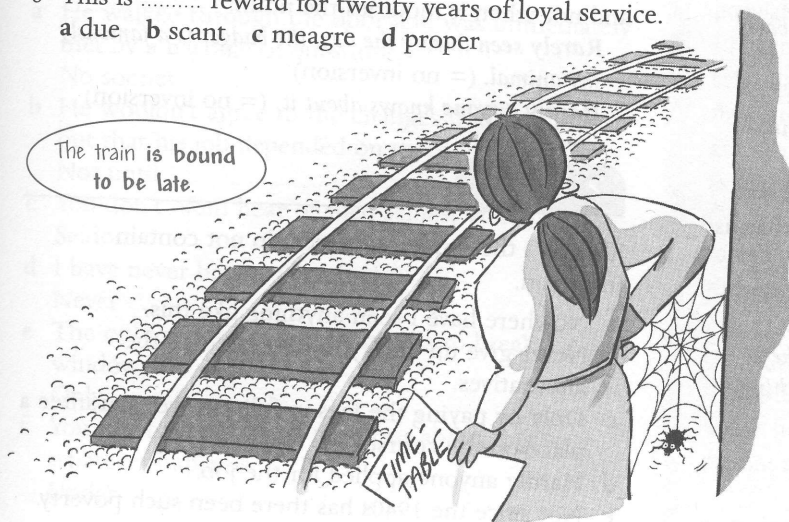
2 Underline the appropriate adjective or adverb.

- They drove under a low / lowly bridge.
- She has travelled wide / widely.
- Make sure you're here at seven o'clock sharp / sharply.
- She loved him dear / dearly.
- We'll be there short / shortly.
- Three-toed sloths live deep / deeply in the Amazon forest.

3 Circle the adjectives listed a, b, c or d, that can fill each gap. One, two, three or all of them may be possible.

- The ..... child was comforted by his aunt.  
a sick b afraid c frightened d ill
- They had stories ..... about their travels through India.  
a unlikely b galore c a-plenty d countless
- A speedy solution is .....  
a main b principal c chief d crucial
- He was taken ..... by the ferocity of the criticism.  
a aback b unawares c surprised d unaccustomed
- The ..... train is almost never on time.  
a last b late c early d stopping
- This is ..... reward for twenty years of loyal service.  
a due b scant c meagre d proper

The train is bound to be late.



4 Put one of these words in each of the gaps below, using each as many times as you want to.

that to with at of on for in by

- I am relieved ..... see that they are pleased ..... their accommodation. It seems entirely compatible ..... their wishes.
- I am almost embarrassed ..... admit that I feel extremely ashamed ..... my fellow-countrymen on occasions such as this, particularly when they seem utterly devoid ..... any manners at all.
- I'm afraid ..... speak to her about this because I'm frightened ..... upsetting her.
- It is probable ..... he will prove to be the most likely person ..... the job and the one most likely ..... do it properly.
- I am aware ..... your deficiencies and the areas you are lacking practice ..... just as I am aware ..... you share these weaknesses with many others.
- I know he's very sure ..... himself and is intent ..... proving he can pass, but we are not convinced ..... his success can be taken for granted.
- I was interested ..... read that many fans had expressed amazement ..... the result. Isn't it amazing ..... so many people take an interest ..... such obscure sports?
- I know I should be ashamed ..... admit that I am saddened ..... young Paula's being written out of my favourite soap. It's a pretty awful thing ..... have to admit, but I really am upset ..... she's leaving.

## SECTION 2

### Inversion after negative adverbs

(For inversion in conditionals after *should*, *had*, etc. see Unit 5, Sections 3.4 and 4. For inversion in result clauses after *such*, *so*, see Unit 6, Section 2.1.)

#### 1 WHAT IS INVERSION?

When we begin a sentence with a negative adverb or adverbial phrase, we sometimes have to change the usual word order of subject and verb (often using an auxiliary verb such as *do*):

*I had **never** seen so many people in one room.*  
(= normal word order)

***Never** had I seen so many people in one room.*  
(= inversion)

✗ ***Not only** he was good looking, he was also very intelligent.*

✓ ***Not only** was he good looking, he was also very intelligent.*

#### 2 WHEN WE USE INVERSION

We use inversion when we move a negative adverb (*never*, *nowhere*, *not only*, etc.) to the beginning of a sentence. We do this because we want to emphasise the meaning of the adverb.

##### Time relationships

- We use inversion after 'negative' adverbs which emphasise a time relationship at the beginning of a sentence:

***No sooner** had I put the phone down **than** it rang again.*

***Hardly / Scarcely / Barely** had I got my breath back **when** it was time to go again.*

- We use inversion with phrases that use *not*:  
***Not until** he apologises will I speak to him again.*  
***Not since** I was little have I had so much fun.*  
***Not for one minute** do I imagine they'll come back.*
- We use inversion with some time phrases that use *only*:

***Only after** several weeks did she begin to recover.*

***Only later** did she realise what had happened.*

***Only then** did he remember he hadn't got his keys.*

***Only when** I've finished this will I be able to think about anything else.*

Here are more examples:

***only recently**   **only in the last few days**  
**only last week**   **only five minutes earlier***

#### watch out!

After *not until*, *only when* and *only after*, the inversion is in the main part of the sentence:

✗ ***Not until** did I see him I remembered we had met before.*

✓ ***Not until** I saw him did I remember we had met before.*

#### Frequency

We also use inversion after 'negative' adverbs which emphasise frequency at the beginning of a sentence:

***Never** have I been so taken aback. **Rarely** do they fail to get away for a holiday. **Seldom** is that pop group out of the news. **Hardly ever** did he wear a suit.*

- We can also use inversion after 'negative' adverbs at the beginning of a sentence to emphasise how infrequently things happen:

***Little** did she realise what was about to happen.*

***Nowhere** was a replacement to be found.*

#### General emphasis

We often use inversion for general emphasis with phrases that use *only*:

***Only by** patience and hard work will we find a solution.*

***Only in this way** do we stand any chance of success.*

- and we can also use phrases with *no*:

***In no way** should this be regarded as an end of the matter.*

***On no account** are you to repeat this to anyone.*

***Under no circumstances** can we accept the offer.*

#### 3 NOT USING INVERSION

We use inversion when the adverb modifies the verb, and not when it modifies the noun:

***Rarely seen** during the day, the badger is a famously shy animal. (= no inversion)*

***Hardly anyone** knows about it. (= no inversion)*

#### ? check

Tick (✓) the sentences which do not contain inversion.

- Nowhere have I seen anything like this.
- Never give up until you have tried all the alternatives.
- Only by paying the fees in full can we guarantee a place on the course.
- Hardly anyone applied for the job.
- Not since the 1940s has there been such poverty.



## Practice

1 Underline all the phrases (a-i) that can start sentence 1 below.

- a Rarely if ever
  - b Not only
  - c Only if it's convenient
  - d Hardly anyone expects that
  - e Under no circumstances
  - f Under such circumstances
  - g Only by asking her directly
  - h No way
  - i Unless something unusual happens
- 1 ... she will come.

Underline all the phrases (a-i) that can start sentence 2 below.

- a Little did anyone notice
  - b Only if he wasn't available
  - c Barely had I sat down when
  - d On no occasion I recall
  - e Only when it was convenient
  - f Not until we were all ready
  - g Never did she knock before
  - h Only then
  - i It was then that
- 2 ... did she come in.

2 Finish each of the sentences in such a way that it is as similar in meaning as possible to the sentence printed before it.

Example: The full story did not emerge until somebody leaked information to the press.

Only when somebody leaked information to the press did the full story emerge.

- a He walked through the door and was immediately met by a barrage of questions.  
No sooner .....
- b He wouldn't agree to the changes until I pointed out that his job depended on them.  
Not until .....
- c You don't often hear of such selfless actions.  
Seldom .....
- d I have never been so insulted.  
Never .....
- e The only way he could get in was to break a window.  
Only .....
- f You must never talk to the press about this, whatever happens.  
Under .....

3 Match the first (1-10) and second (a-j) parts.

Examples: 1 + j 2 + i

**Inconsistent advice about a new husband!**

- (1 On no account should)
- (2 Not only should he be allowed to give his opinions,)
- 3 Under no circumstances is he to
- 4 Only by constantly nagging will he be
- 5 Only after weeks of rigorous training will he
- 6 Rarely will a man respond to a request the first time unless
- 7 No way should his laundry be done for him unless
- 8 Only very rarely should a garment be ironed for him
- 9 In exceptional circumstances
- 10 But, only if he seems really desperate
- a learn how to switch on the vacuum cleaner.
- b should you try to solve his problems for him.
- c without the assurance that next time he will do it himself.
- d you may take what he says seriously.
- e it is in his own interests to do so.
- f he is prepared to lend a hand with the washing up.
- g be disturbed while watching a football match on television.
- h persuaded to pick his clothes off the floor.
- (i he should also be deluded into thinking you agree with him.)
- (j you let him realise he isn't the boss.)

4 Fill each blank with a suitable word.

## Memo to teaching staff

We have a problem. Rarely ..... (1) we had a student population like this one. .... (2) since the 1980s can I remember so many troublesome students in our school at any one time. Not only ..... (3) some of them treat the staff with absolute scorn, ..... (4) they are also clearly ..... (5) on causing as much trouble as possible among their peers.  
On ..... (6) account can such behaviour be allowed to continue. And not for one ..... (7) should the ringleaders think they will not be punished. Only ..... (8) such punishment is carried out will confidence return to the student body and ..... (9) then will school life return to some kind of normality. Under no circumstances ..... (10) we allow the present state of affairs to continue.

## SECTION 3

### Making comparisons

#### 1 FORMING COMPARATIVES

We can make adjectives and adverbs comparative with -er... than or more / less + adj / adv ... than:

He was **much older than** I remembered him.

(= comparative adjective) He drove **far less carefully than** he should have. (= comparative adverb)

- Some adverbs have an -er comparative:  
You should have come **earlier**.
- Adverbs ending in -ly (formed from adjectives) use more or less:  
He started to work **even more hurriedly**.

#### 2 SAME OR DIFFERENT

We can use the following structures and phrases to say that one thing is the same as, or different from, another:

Ben has **much the same mannerisms as** his father.

He has **different mannerisms from** his sister.

They're **not as intelligent as** their father.

Neither are **anything like as** intelligent **as** I am.

This is **nothing like as** cold **as** it is in January.

Your first attempt is **nowhere near as** good.

- In the positive we only use as...as. In the negative, we can also use so...as:  
Grandad doesn't get about **so easily as** he used to.
- We use such + noun + as in negative sentences. Note the change in position of a / an:  
I didn't have **such a good time as** last week. (= I didn't have **as good a time as**...)
- We can use as in a form of inversion with an auxiliary verb:  
People can no longer climb the tower at Pisa, **as was** possible until a few years ago.
- We can also use superlatives with the; we often follow these with a that-clause:  
This is **the best** burger **that** I've ever tasted.
- When the superlative isn't followed by a noun or that-clause, we can omit the:  
I think this one is **(the) best**.

#### 3 DOUBLE COMPARATIVES

We use double comparatives with the to say that one thing results in another:

**The more** we discuss this, **the less** I understand it.

**The longer** I carried the box, **the heavier** it became.

#### 4 PREFERENCES

There are various ways to express preference:

I **prefer** (playing) basketball **to** football.

I **would prefer** to stay here **than** go out so late.

I'd sooner die **than** have to go through all that again.

I'd **far rather** do it now **than** leave it till later.

**Rather than** watch rubbish on TV, I'd **prefer** to go out.

#### 5 AS AND LIKE

When followed by a noun, we use as to give a description, and like to make a comparison:

Peter works **as** a waiter. (= he's a waiter)

He works **like** a farm horse. (= comparison)

- When we make comparisons, like is followed by a noun phrase. As is a conjunction and is followed by a verb phrase. Although like is used very informally with verb phrases, it is best avoided:

~~✗ He looks **as** me.~~

~~They get up early every morning **like** I do.~~

✓ He looks **like** me.

They get up early every morning, **as** I do.

#### 6 AS IF AND AS THOUGH

We use as if and as though to say what seems to be true, happening, etc:

He looks **as if / as though** he's going to be sick.

- We can use Unreal Past or subjunctive (see Unit 5, Section 1) after as if or as though to emphasise that the comparison is imaginary:

She looks **as if** she **knew** what's going to happen.

(= she doesn't) She looks **as if** she **knows** what's going to happen. (= maybe she does)

- We can use just or exactly + as if / though to emphasise the comparison. Much or almost + as if / though weakens the comparison:

He looks **just as though** he'd won a million dollars.

They look **almost as if** they didn't want to be here.

#### ? check

Match the two halves of these sentences.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 I don't think this is much different | a than do what you do.          |
| 2 I've never seen such a boring match  | b to having to rely on others.  |
| 3 You seem to prefer being independent | c you needed a lot of help.     |
| 4 I'd sooner be unemployed             | d from what happened last time. |
| 5 It seems as if                       | e as this one.                  |



## Practice

## 1 Correct these sentences.

- a They are quicker doing this as I am.
- b I got there more earlier than everyone else.
- c They are not as good at using a computer than me.
- d I don't think this novel is so good than his last one.
- e I ate pretty the same much as the last time I went to his restaurant.
- f The longer I sit here, less I feel like moving.
- g I prefer Tarantino's films than Oliver Stone's.
- h He ran as the wind.
- i He has worked like a clerk for the same bank for most of his life.
- j They seemed as they didn't really understand what was going on.

## 2 Fill each of the numbered blanks with a suitable word.

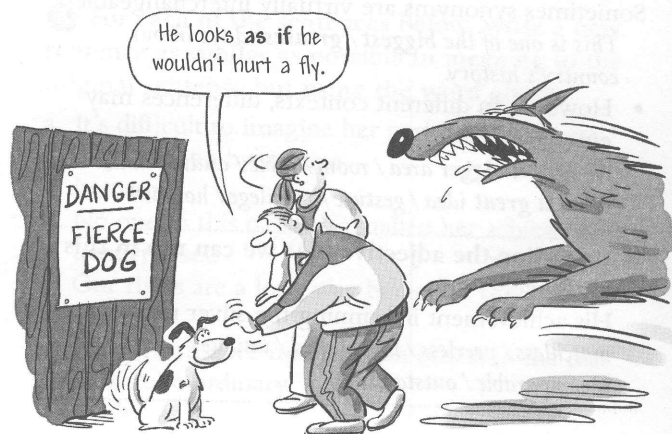
- a I went to the conference but for most of the time I felt ..... (1) a fish out of water. I knew nobody there and everyone else behaved ..... (2) if they had all known each other for years. I left just ..... (3) soon as I could and arrived home ..... (4) than planned.
- b I've always preferred classical music ..... (1) pop music. I'd much ..... (2) listen to a forty-five-minute symphony ..... (3) a three-minute song. Pop songs seem so ..... (4) less interesting, harmonically and melodically, and the insistent, repetitive drumming is about ..... (5) much fun ..... (6) banging your head against a wall.
- c My father was a jack of all trades in those days, as ..... (1) all village school headmasters: digging holes for swimming pools ..... (2) a full-time labourer, marking out athletics tracks in the manner ..... (3) a professional, teaching arithmetic to the top class in ..... (4) time as he had free. The ..... (5) he did, the more was expected of him by the village community, as if he should ..... (6) every waking hour to the well-being of his pupils. And he did. Nowadays one hears people talk of headmasters as if they ..... (7) accountants, balancing their ..... (8) as efficiently ..... (9) they can. I think I'd ..... (10) have been a headmaster in the old days.

## 3 Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it is as similar as possible to the sentence before it.

- a The Alps are a lot higher than the Pindus range. The Pindus range is nothing .....
- b For me doing menial tasks from nine to five would certainly be preferable to being out of work. I'd far .....
- c We used to be much closer than we are now. We're nowhere .....
- d To hear him talk you'd think he owned the place. He talks as .....
- e They're by no means as intelligent as their father. They're far .....
- f Our special offer was taken up by as many as 70,000 people. No .....
- g I'm not too keen on watching football but I really enjoy playing it. I much prefer .....
- h Like many of my friends, I've given up smoking. I've given up smoking, as .....

## 4 Fill each of the gaps in the sentences with a suitable word or phrase.

- a She looks much the ..... did ten years ago.
- b The longer I study ..... I realise what an interesting language it is.
- c I don't spend anything ..... money as my husband.
- d I'd sooner have ten ..... children at all.
- e They accepted their award much ..... expected it all along.
- f He staggers around nowadays as ..... weight of the world on his shoulders.



## Unit seven

# Vocabulary

## SECTION 4

### Differences and similarities

#### 1 COLLOCATION

We can use a number of adjective / noun or adverb / verb collocations to say how different or similar people or things are. Other adjectives may have a similar meaning, but we can't use them because they don't collocate (see Unit 1, Section 6):

✗ *There's a ~~noted~~ / ~~wide~~ / ~~strong~~ difference.*

✓ *There's a **marked** / **perceptible** / **vast** / **clear** difference.*

#### 1 Underline the following verbs that collocate with the noun *comparison*.

This computer game *makes* / *draws* / *puts* / *avoids* / *bears* / *invites* / *takes* comparison with the best on the market.

#### 2 Underline the following adjectives that collocate with the noun *similarity*.

There's a *marked* / *striking* / *resonant* / *distinct* / *weak* / *little* similarity between the two boys.

#### 3 Underline the following adverbs that collocate with the verb *compare*.

The new product compares *favourably* / *well* / *closely* / *fairly* / *unfavourably* with the old one.

#### 2 SYNONYMS AND NEAR-SYNONYMS

Sometimes synonyms are virtually interchangeable:

This is one of the **biggest** / **greatest** days in our country's history.

- However, in different contexts, differences may emerge:

We need a **bigger** area / room / table / auditorium.

What a **great** idea / gesture / privilege / honour!

#### 4 Underline the adjective that we can use in this sentence.

His achievement in winning the silver medal was *matchless* / *peerless* / *unequalled* / *unique* / *incomparable* / *outstanding*.

#### 3 MODIFIERS

We often want to comment on how big a difference is. To do so we use modifying adjectives, adverbs and adverbial phrases in comparisons:

*Home-made pizza is **miles better** than the rubbish you get in the supermarket.*

*There's still a **substantial** difference between the two main parties.*

#### 5 Underline the modifiers that we can use in these two sentences.

a He was *considerably* / *slightly* / *much* / *fairly* / *quite* / *rather* / *immeasurably* / *far* better than when we last saw him.

b They are *nowhere near* / *nothing like* / *not quite* / *not that* / *not virtually* as efficient as when we last used them five years ago.

#### 4 LINKING PHRASES

We can use linking phrases to replace *smaller than*, *as big as*, etc:

*One teaspoon is **equivalent to** about 5ml.*

#### 6 Underline the words and phrases that we can use in this sentence.

This year's numbers were very small *as against* / *relating to* / *in contrast to* / *compared to* / *whereas* / *tantamount to* / *equated to* / *in comparison with* / *comparable to* the vast numbers we had last year.

#### 5 IDIOMATIC PHRASES

We can use a number of idiomatic phrases in comparisons:

*Using e-mail is **as easy as falling off a log**.*

*Don't go in there **like a bull in a china shop** and upset everyone.*

#### 7 Fill the gap in the phrases below with one of these words.

*class streets peas head spots cheese*

a Mozart and Wagner are as different as chalk and .....

b The twins are alike as two ..... in a pod.

c United would knock ..... off us.

d Theodorakis is in a ..... of his own.

e I don't agree that Americans are ..... ahead of us.

f Armenian basketball players are ..... and shoulders above the rest.



## Practice

1 Underline the option, a, b, c or d, that best completes each sentence.

- 1 The celebrations were somewhat ..... by the announcement of her resignation.  
a outshone b overshadowed c overcast d outweighed
- 2 What would be the ..... qualification in your own country?  
a equivalent b same c similar d corresponded
- 3 I feel a(n) ..... better after a night's sleep.  
a shade b degree c iota d note
- 4 Many would argue that modern pop compares ..... with that of ten years ago.  
a closely b nearly c unfavourably d accurately
- 5 There is unfortunately a ..... between the petty cash slips and the actual money in the tin.  
a difference b variance c discrepancy d differentiation
- 6 Don't you think she bears an ..... resemblance to his first wife?  
a identical b uneasy c uncanny d indifferent
- 7 At forty-five, the ex-heavyweight champion is a(n) ..... of his former self.  
a reflection b image c shadow d miniature
- 8 Unfortunately they ..... us in the auction to the tune of £500.  
a outbid b outweighed c overdid d underwrote

2 Fill each of the blanks with one of the words from the list.

*cheese similarities common against totally opposed unlike whereas differ contrast*

- a The twins are as different as chalk and .....
- b They really haven't got a lot in ..... at all.
- c They're ..... different.
- d There are very few ..... between the two of them.
- e They ..... in just about every way.
- f You've got Paul's generally pleasant acquiescence as ..... Peter's open rebelliousness.
- g There's Paul, the model son, as ..... to Peter, the black sheep.
- h You have Peter's darkened brow in ..... to Paul's open smile.
- i ..... Paul beams, Peter glowers.
- j But ..... Paul, Peter is successful.

3 Fill each of the gaps with one suitable word.

- a Letting them off with a suspended sentence is ..... to saying their crime is insignificant.
- b I don't think you can equate this crime ..... what is understood by 'aggravated burglary'.
- c I would challenge your assumption that blame can be attributed ..... to both sets of lawbreakers.
- d As far as I can see, both cases have a remarkable number of details in .....
- e I don't think this case ..... comparison with the one you are referring to.

4 Fill each of the numbered blanks with an appropriate form of a verb from the list. The first (0) has been given as an example.

*discriminate differ vary differentiate diverge liken contrast (compare)*

## British v. American English

Millions of words have been written in an attempt to *compare* (0) the two languages, pointing out how they ..... (1) but are still recognisably the 'same' language. Clearly no one should ..... (2) against the American species just because it is the younger partner. Some people have ..... (3) the difference to that between a horse and a mule, but that does not go very far towards ..... (4) between the two languages. They are rather two breeds of horse that have ..... (5) very slightly over the years. Some points of British English grammar ..... (6) quite sharply with American English, but the fact remains that accent ..... (7) as much within each country as between the two.

5 For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence but using the word given.

- a It's difficult to imagine her performance being improved on by anyone.  
**bettering**
- b No one to this day has equalled her achievement.  
**unsurpassed**
- c Our rivals are a long way behind at the moment.  
**streets**
- d His performance made all the others in the cast look quite ordinary.  
**shade**
- e In my opinion she's nowhere near as proficient as she used to be.  
**anything**

## SECTION 5

### Sentence adverbs

#### 1 WHAT ARE SENTENCE ADVERBS?

Essentially, sentence adverbs are adverbs or adverbial phrases that comment on a whole sentence or part of a sentence:

*By and large*, they are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma. *Generally speaking*, they go at the beginning of the sentence. *However*, some can go at the end, *apparently*. *Moreover*, we can certainly put some in the middle.

#### 1 Underline the sentence adverbs or adverbial phrases.

- We got to the airport with half an hour to spare which, all things considered, was a miracle.
- I suppose with hindsight it would have been wiser to take the bus.

#### 2 WHEN DO WE USE SENTENCE ADVERBS?

Sentence adverbs have a number of uses including organising information, commenting, giving examples, changing the subject, rephrasing and summarising:

*Firstly*, we use them to show how the sentence fits in with the rest of the text. *Alternatively*, we may use them to express our attitude to what we are about to say. *In other words*, we use them to comment on what we think or feel. *On the whole*, they make it easier to understand what is going on. *Funnily enough*, the two sentence adverbials that students of English get most confused about are '*On the contrary*' and '*On the other hand*'.

#### 2 Match the sentence adverbs in italics with the functions (1–4) below.

- It was a long journey but *all in all* I think it was worth it.
- Our preparation was haphazard and ill-thought out. *Thus* we were easily defeated.
- I was told to get here for nine o'clock, *presumably* because something important has come up.
- I know how to do it. *That is to say*, I think I know how.

- Organising information
- Expressing your attitude
- Rephrasing
- Summarising and generalising

### Practice

#### 1 Underline the sentence adverb that best completes each sentence.

- It is impossible to tell whether a man is married or not. *On the contrary* / *On the other hand*, women usually have 'Miss' or 'Mrs' before their name.
- 'Your parents didn't want you to go abroad, did they?' '*On the contrary* / *On the other hand*, they were all for it.'
- These new computers are amazingly fast. *On the other hand*, / *On the contrary*, they're very expensive.
- It took ages to get there but *in the end* / *at the end* it was worth it.
- He slept through the entire film and *in the end* / *at the end* of it had the nerve to say he enjoyed it.
- As a rule* / *Fundamentally*, I find French films dull and pretentious.
- On balance* / *In contrast* I prefer Crete to Rhodes, though it's a close run thing.
- British and American English are *characteristically* / *to all intents and purposes* the same.

#### 2 Underline the option a, b, c or d that best completes each sentence.

- She was caught cheating in the race. .... she was disqualified.  
a Accordingly b Equally c Explicitly  
d Fundamentally
- She wasn't allowed into the country; .... because her papers aren't in order.  
a subsequently b admittedly c presumably  
d paradoxically
- I wasn't there myself but .... they had the most almighty row.  
a broadly b apparently c conversely  
d primarily
- My shirt was covered in oil but .... I had a spare one.  
a hopefully b clearly c however d luckily
- She invited me to a party and .... I said 'yes'.  
a naturally b lastly c overall d hopefully
- The decision was a bad one and I think that, ...., we all recognise that.  
a in contrast b in particular c in retrospect  
d in consequence
- It's an interesting idea and, .... at least, has a lot going for it.  
a in theory b in fairness c in conclusion  
d in reality



8 ..... I dislike Hollywood films but this was an exception.

- a As a result    b As far as I know    c As a rule  
d As it turns out

**3 Fill each of the numbered blanks with one suitable word.**

- a I think Kazantsakis' books are fascinating but at the ..... (1) time his ideas are not particularly easy to understand. .... (2) a result it takes me ages to get through even one of his shorter works. It's hard work but, all ..... (3) considered, worth it.  
b Strangely ..... (4), the holiday was a great success, though ..... (5) a rule I get really bored lying on a beach. On the ..... (6), I prefer the type of holiday where you are constantly discovering new things. To me, lying around is, to all intents and ..... (7), a complete waste of time.  
c As ..... (8) as we know, there is no other intelligent life in the universe. In ..... (9), of course, there may well be intelligent forms out there, but theory is one thing and proof another. To ..... (10) it bluntly, those who claim to have seen aliens are, ..... (11) and large, nutcases. In the same ..... (12), those who believe in the Loch Ness monster are living in fantasy land. On the other ..... (13), the little green men may invade tomorrow and these words will, ..... (14) hindsight, seem foolish. Though somehow I doubt it.

**4 Fill each gap with one of the words or phrases.**

*let alone    to a certain extent    predominantly    notably  
on the contrary*

- a Most of the people queuing at the marriage counsellor's door were under thirty, ..... but not exclusively women.  
b I don't resent her being here; ....., I'm delighted she is.  
c I would never want to hurt another human being, ..... my best friend.  
d He was a strong candidate, ..... in the listening and speaking sections.  
e I can't vote for him but ..... I can see that he's right.

**5 Fill each gap with one of the words or phrases.**

*like it or not    primarily    believe it or not    as regards  
particularly*

- a They split up, ..... because they agreed they were incompatible.  
b It's always rather a bleak area, ..... in the winter.  
c I asked her to lend me £10,000 and, ....., she agreed.  
d ..... the weather, I just don't know how you can bear to live here.  
e ....., you're going to have to sell something just to pay the rent.

**6 Fill each gap with one of the words or phrases.**

*when it comes to    in some respects    not to mention  
in the main    chiefly*

- a I have some misgivings but ..... I'm not unhappy I came here.  
b I've got rent, a gas bill and road tax to pay, ..... what I owe my dear old dad.  
c She's second to none ..... cooking pasta.  
d I'm glad I came here, ..... because of you.  
e ..... I agree with him, but overall I think I would have to side with her.

**7 Fill each of the gaps in these sentences with one suitable word.**

*Example: Broadly speaking, I agree that, come what may, we just have to persevere.*

- a ..... first sight English may seem a simple language but ..... reality that's far from true.  
b ..... you may know, she's leaving; ..... least I'm pretty sure she is.  
c Personally ....., and incredible ..... it may seem to you, I think chocolate is much overrated.  
d ..... regard to arrival time, we should, ..... things being equal, be there by seven.  
e ..... everyone's surprise, ..... the end she lost her nerve.  
f To be ....., I think this whole project stinks from ..... to finish.  
g At the ..... of the day and ..... the final analysis, how many trophies we win is what's important.  
h ..... to a point I think he did very well, ..... his lack of experience in that event.  
i ..... a nutshell, we've got to work harder, ..... question about it.  
j ..... the top of my head, I'd say there were over 100 people there, ..... I'm very much mistaken.