



Comparisons

Semillas: Elementary Spanish



Comparisons

In Spanish, you use the phrases **más...que** and **menos...que** to compare two unequal entities in terms of quality, quantity, or degree.

- El desierto es **más seco que** la selva.
- *The desert is **drier than** the rainforest.*

The example above uses the adjective *seco*. Remember that your adjectives still have to agree with the noun in gender and number (**desierto / seco**) when you use comparisons.

- You can use **más...que** and **menos...que** with adjectives, adverbs, and/or nouns.



The basic structure for **más...que**

- **más + adjective/adverb/noun + que**
 - La casa en las montañas es **más cara que** la casa en la ciudad. *The house in the mountains is **more expensive than** the house in the city (adjective).*
 - Caminamos **más rápido que** ellos cuando acampamos. *We walk **faster than** they do when we camp (adverb).*
 - España tiene **más castillos que** México. *Spain has **more castles than** Mexico (noun).*



The basic structure for **menos...que**

- **menos + adjective/adverb/noun + que**
 - Los viajes con familia son **menos divertidos** que los viajes con amigos. *Trips with family are less fun than trips with friends (adjective).*
 - Preparo la cena **menos frecuentemente** **que** mi esposo. *I prepare dinner less frequently than my husband (adverb).*
 - En los pueblos hay **menos tráfico** **que** en las ciudades. *In small towns there is less traffic than in cities (noun).*

A photograph of a field of young green plants growing in dark brown soil. The plants are small and spaced out across the field. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the foreground plants.

Special cases and irregular comparisons



The special case of numbers

- Notice that when you compare quantities with numbers, you use **de** instead of *que*.
- **más / menos + de + number**
- Voy de vacaciones **más de tres** veces cada año. *I go on vacation **more than** three times each year.*



Irregular comparisons

Some adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms, and you do not use **más** or **menos** with them:

Bueno/a = Mejor

Malo/a = Peor

Viejo/a = Mayor

Joven = Menor

Este hotel es **mejor que** el otro. *This hotel is **better than** the other.*

Ese itinerario es **peor que** este. *That itinerary is **worse than** this one.*

Mi abuelo es **mayor que** tu abuela. *My grandfather is **older than** your grandmother.*