


**G** comparatives, *as... as, less... than...*

**V** time expressions: *spend time, waste time, etc.*


**P** sentence stress

## Faster, faster!

### 1 GRAMMAR comparatives, *as... as, less... than...*

- a Read the introduction to the article *We're living faster...* Is it optimistic or pessimistic? Why?
- b Read it again and cross out the wrong word.  
According to James Gleick, today we...
- 1 work **longer** / **shorter** hours.
  - 2 have **more** / **less** free time.
  - 3 talk **faster** / **more slowly**.
  - 4 are **more relaxed** / **less relaxed**.
  - 5 will probably have **longer** / **shorter** lives than our parents.
- c Complete the sentences with *as* or *than*. Then check with the text.
- 1 We sleep less \_\_\_\_\_ previous generations.
  - 2 If we don't slow down, we won't live \_\_\_\_\_ long \_\_\_\_\_ our parents.
- d  **p.132 Grammar Bank 4C.** Read the rules and do the exercises.

### 2 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

 Remember! *-er*, and unstressed words like *a*, *and*, *as*, and *than* have the sound /ə/



**4.8** Listen and repeat the sentences.

Copy the rhythm.

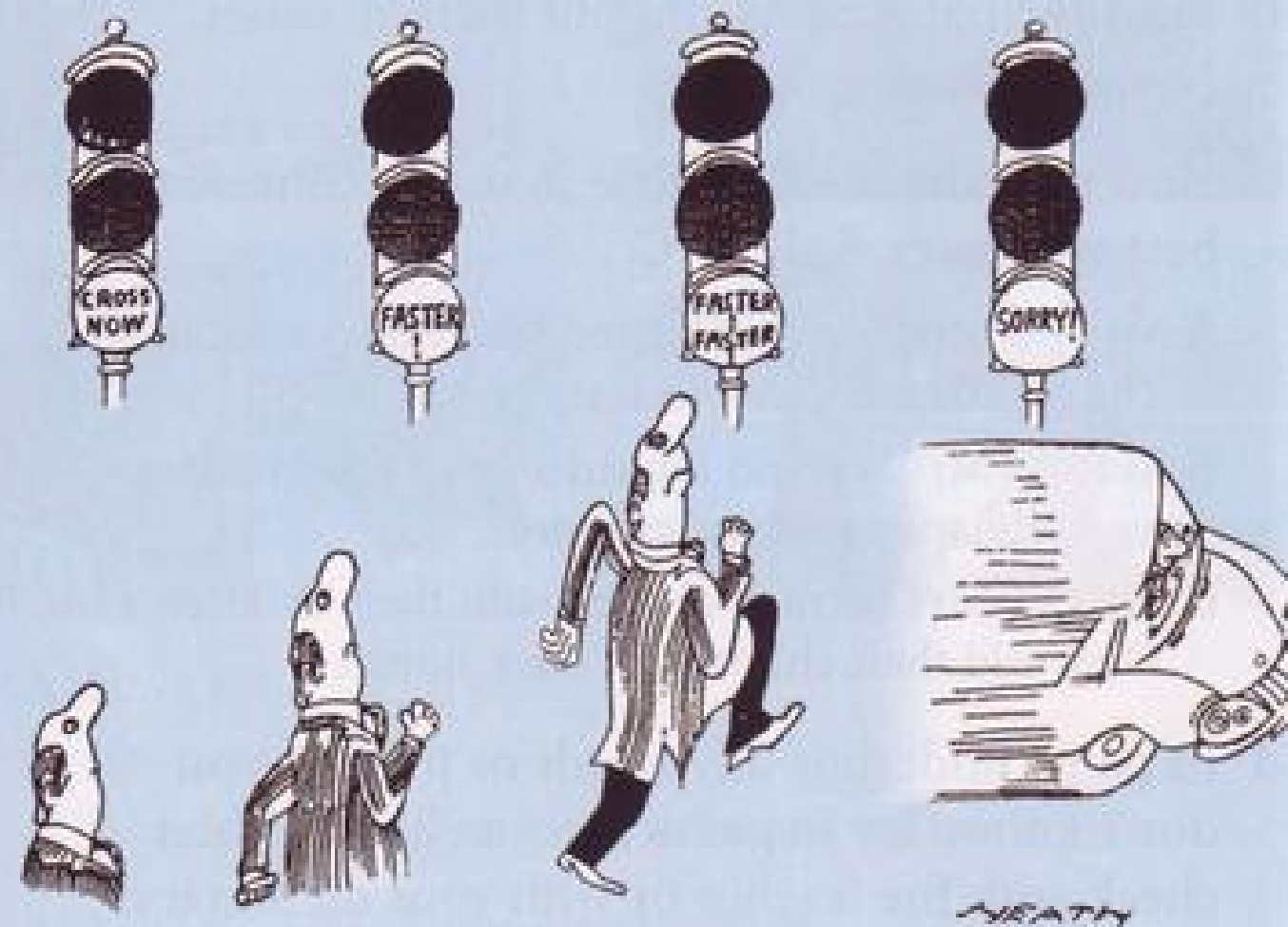
- 1 I'm busier than a year ago.
- 2 Life is more stressful than in the past.
- 3 We work harder than before.
- 4 We walk and talk faster.
- 5 I'm not as relaxed as I was.
- 6 We won't live as long as our parents.

We work harder and we have less free time.

### 3 READING & VOCABULARY

- a You're going to read about some ways in which our lives are faster. Work in pairs. A read 1–3, B read 4–6.
- b A tell B about paragraphs 1–3, B tell A about paragraphs 4–6. Use the pictures to help you. Are any of these things true in your country?
- c Now read paragraphs 1–6. In pairs, look at the **highlighted** expressions with the word *time* and guess their meaning.

## WE'RE LIVING FASTER



**N**OT LONG AGO people believed that in the future we would work less, have more free time, and be more relaxed. But sadly this has not happened. Today we work harder, work longer hours, and are more stressed than ten years ago. We walk faster, talk faster, and sleep less than previous generations. And although we are obsessed with machines which save us time, we have less free time than our parents and grandparents had. But what is this doing to our health? An American journalist James Gleick in a new book, *Faster: the Acceleration of just about everything*, says that people who live in cities are suffering from 'hurry sickness'— we are always trying to do more things in less time. As a result, our lives are more stressful. He says that if we don't slow down, we won't live as long as our parents. For most people, faster doesn't mean better.

## 4 LISTENING & SPEAKING

- a **4.9** Look at the questionnaire. Listen to four people answering question 1. Which activity (working, studying, etc.) are they talking about?
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_
- b Listen again. Why do they spend more (or less) time on these things?
- c In pairs, interview each other using the questionnaire.

### ARE YOU LIVING FASTER...?

- Compared to two years ago, do you spend more or less time on these things? Say why.
 

working or studying	sitting in traffic	cooking
talking on the phone	seeing friends	eating
working on a computer	shopping	sleeping
- Do you have more or less free time than a year ago? Why? What don't you have enough time for?
- How do you get to work / school? How long does it take you? Is this longer than a year ago?
- Do you usually arrive on time...? Why (not)?  
at work/school    for your English class    to meet your friends
- What machines do you have which save you time? Do they make your life simpler or more complicated?
- Do you waste a lot of time every day? Doing what?

# BUT ARE WE LIVING BETTER?

Good evening and here is the news



### 1 No time for the news

Newspaper articles today are shorter and the headlines are bigger. Most people **don't have enough time** to read the articles, they only read the headlines! On TV and the radio, newsreaders speak more quickly than ten years ago.



### 4 No time to relax

Even when we relax we do everything more quickly. Ten years ago when people went to art galleries they spent ten seconds looking at each picture. Today they spend just three seconds!



### 2 No time for stories

In the USA there is a book called *One-Minute Bedtime Stories* for children. These are shorter versions of traditional stories, specially written for 'busy parents' who want to **save time**!



### 5 No time for slow sports

In the USA the national sport, baseball, is not as popular as before because it is a slow game and matches **take a long time**. Nowadays many people prefer faster and more dynamic sports like basketball.



### 3 No time to listen

Some answerphones now have 'quick playback' buttons so that we can re-play people's messages faster – we can't **waste time** listening to people speaking at normal speed!



### 6 ...but more time in our cars

The only thing that is slower than before is the way we drive. Our cars are faster but the traffic is worse so we drive more slowly. We **spend more time** sitting in our cars, feeling stressed because we are worried that we won't arrive **on time**. Experts predict that in ten years' time the average speed on the road in cities will be 17 km/h.

## 4A present perfect (experience) + ever, never

+		-	
I've (I have) You've (You have) He's (He has) She's (She has) It's (It has) We've (We have) They've (They have)	been to London.	I haven't You haven't He hasn't She hasn't It hasn't We haven't They haven't	worked in a bank.

?	✓	✗
Have you worked in a bank?	Yes, I have.	No, I haven't.
Has he been to London?	Yes, he has.	No, he hasn't.

- Use the present perfect to talk about past experiences when you don't say exactly when they happened.  
*I've been to London.* NOT *I've been to London last year.*  
*My brother has worked abroad.*
- For regular verbs the past participle is the same as the past simple (+ed). For Irregular verbs see p.155.
- We often use the present perfect with *ever* (= in your life until now) and *never*.  
*Have you ever been to London? No, I've never been there.*

**▲** Compare the present perfect of *go* and *be*.  
*He's gone to Paris.* = He's in Paris now.  
*He's been to Paris.* = He went to Paris and came back.

### present perfect or past simple?

A Have you ever been to Mexico?	B Yes, I have.
A When did you go there?	B I went last year.

- Conversations often begin in the present perfect (with a general question) and then change to the past simple (with questions asking for specific details, *when, where, who with, etc.*)
- Use the past simple to ask / say exactly when something happened.

## 4B present perfect + yet, just, already

**yet**

A Have you finished your homework yet?
B No, not yet. I haven't finished yet.

- Use *yet* + the present perfect in **+** and **?** sentences to ask if something that you think is going to happen has happened.
- Put *yet* at the end of the sentence.

**just**

A Would you like a coffee?
B No thanks. I've just had one.
My sister's just started a new job.

- Use *just* in **+** sentences to say that something happened very recently.
- Put *just* before the main verb.

**already**

A Do you want to see this film?
B No, I've already seen it three times.
A Shall I buy a newspaper?
B No, I've already bought one.

- Use *already* in **+** sentences to say that something happened before now or earlier than expected.
- Put *already* before the main verb.

## 4C comparative adjectives

Adjective	Comparative	
short	shorter	one syllable: + er
big	bigger	one vowel + one consonant: double final consonant
busy	busier	consonant + y: y + ier
relaxed	more relaxed	two or more syllables: more + adjective
good	better	Irregular
bad	worse	
far	further	

## comparative adverbs

Adjective	Comparative	Adjective	Comparative
Regular	more quickly less slowly	Irregular	harder better worse
quickly		hard	
slowly	well		
		badly	

- Use comparative adjectives to compare people and things.  
*My brother's taller than me.*
- Use comparative adverbs to compare actions.  
*He drives more slowly than me.*
- You can also use (not) *as* + (adjective / adverb) + *as*.  
*I'm not as tall as my brother.*  
*He doesn't drive as fast as me.*

## 4D superlatives (+ ever + present perfect)

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
cold	colder	the coldest
hot	hotter	the hottest
pretty	prettier	the prettiest
beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	further	the furthest

- Use *the* + superlative adjectives to say which is the biggest, etc. in a group.  
*It's the highest mountain in Europe. She's the best in the class.*
- We often use a superlative with the present perfect.  
*Russia is the coldest place we've ever been to.*  
*It's the most beautiful church I've ever seen.*

4A

a Write sentences or questions with the present perfect.

- he / ever / be there? *Has he ever been there?*
- 1 you / ever buy / clothes from that shop?
  - 2 I / not read / the newspaper today.
  - 3 We / never be / to the new shopping centre.
  - 4 your brother / live abroad / all his life?
  - 5 They / go / to live in South America.
  - 6 She / never fly / before.
  - 7 He / not meet / his wife's family.
  - 8 you / eat / in this restaurant before?

b Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the wrong sentences.

He's got up late this morning. ✗ *He got up late this morning.*

- 1 We've been to Ireland last year.
- 2 Have you ever gone to Paris?
- 3 Jane's gone to the bank. She'll be back soon.
- 4 I like your shoes. Where did you buy them?
- 5 I've seen that film last week.
- 6 I spoke to him a minute ago.
- 7 My sister's a writer. She's written five novels.
- 8 World War II has ended in 1945.

4B

a Order the words to make sentences.

- 1 made have you yet your bed?
- 2 gone already to work she's.
- 3 just we've a cup of coffee had.
- 4 I found a job haven't yet.
- 5 sent me just an he's e-mail.
- 6 house already sold they've their.

b Write sentences or questions with *already, just, or yet*.

- he / arrive (already) *He's already arrived.*
- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 I / have / breakfast (just)         | 5 they / get married (just)               |
| 2 you / finish your homework? (yet)   | 6 You're too late. He / go home (already) |
| 3 the film / start (already)          | 7 you / speak to him? (yet)               |
| 4 I / not meet / his girlfriend (yet) | 8 I / not read his new book (yet)         |

4C

a Write comparative sentences.

- London is / expensive / Manchester.  
*London is more expensive than Manchester.*
- 1 my sister is / thin / me.
  - 2 I'm / busy / this week / last week.
  - 3 Cambridge is / far from London / Oxford.
  - 4 I did the second exam / bad / the first.
  - 5 Chelsea played / well / Arsenal.
  - 5 the men in my office work / hard / the women.
  - 6 my new job is / boring / my old one.

b Rewrite the sentences so they mean the same. Use *as... as*.

- Mike is stronger than Jim. Jim isn't *as strong as Mike*.
- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1 Cindy is taller than Kelly.                  | Kelly isn't _____.    |
| 2 Your case is heavier than mine.              | My case isn't _____.  |
| 3 Mexico City is bigger than London.           | London isn't _____.   |
| 4 Football is more popular than tennis.        | Tennis isn't _____.   |
| 5 Children learn languages faster than adults. | Adults don't _____.   |
| 6 You work harder than me.                     | I don't _____.        |
| 7 France played better than England.           | England didn't _____. |

4D

a Complete the sentences with a superlative.

- Is this *the noisiest* city in the world? (noisy)
- 1 Yesterday was \_\_\_\_\_ day of the year. (hot)
  - 2 This is \_\_\_\_\_ time to drive through the city centre. (bad)
  - 3 She's \_\_\_\_\_ person in the class. (friendly)
  - 4 This is \_\_\_\_\_ part of the exam. (important)
  - 5 The \_\_\_\_\_ month to visit is September. (good)
  - 6 It's \_\_\_\_\_ city in the world. (polluted)
  - 7 The \_\_\_\_\_ I've ever flown is to Australia. (far)

b Write sentences with *ever*.

- it / hot country / I be to  
*It's the hottest country I've ever been to.*
- 1 it / good film / I / see
  - 2 he / unfriendly person / I / meet
  - 3 it / hard exam / he / do
  - 4 they / expensive shoes / she / buy
  - 5 it / long book / I / read
  - 6 she / beautiful girl / I / see
  - 7 it / bad meal / I / have