



Spanish IV

Comparisons of inequality

- With adjectives, adverbs, nouns, and verbs, use these constructions to make comparisons of inequality (more than/less than).

más/menos + adjective
adverb
noun + que

Adjective

Sus creencias son **menos liberales que** las mías.

His beliefs are less liberal than mine.

Adverb

¡Llegaste **más tarde que** yo!

You arrived later than I did!

verb + más/menos que

Noun

El presidente tenía **menos poder que** el ejército.

The president had less power than the army.

Verb

¡Nos **peleamos más que** los niños!

We fight more than the kids do!

- Before a number (or equivalent expression), *more/less than* is expressed with **más/menos de**.

Necesito un vuelo a Santiago, pero no puedo pagar **más de** quinientos dólares.

I need a flight to Santiago, but I can't pay more than five hundred dollars.

Será difícil, señor. Déjeme buscar y le aviso en **menos de** una hora.

That will be difficult, sir. Let me look, and I'll let you know in less than an hour.

Comparisons of equality

- The following constructions are used to make comparisons of equality (*as...as*).

tan + *adjective*
adverb + como

Adjective

El debate de anoche fue **tan aburrido como** el de la semana pasada.

Last night's debate was as boring as last week's.

Adverb

Nosotros discutimos **tan intensamente como** los candidatos.

We argued as intensely as the candidates.

tanto/a(s) + *singular noun*
plural noun + como

Noun

La señora Pacheco habló con **tanta convicción como** el señor Quesada.

Ms. Pacheco spoke with as much conviction as Mr. Quesada.

Verb

Ambos candidatos son insoportables. Ella **miente tanto como** él.

Both candidates are unbearable. She lies as much as he does.

¡ATENCIÓN!

Tan and **tanto** can also be used for emphasis, rather than to compare.

tan so

tanto so much

tantos/as so many

¡Tus ideas son tan anticuadas!

Your ideas are so outdated!

¿Por qué te enojas tanto?

Why do you get so angry?

Lo hemos hablado tantas veces y nunca logro convencerte.

We've talked about it so many times, and I never manage to convince you.

Superlatives

- Use this construction to form superlatives (**superlativos**). The noun is preceded by a definite article, and **de** is the equivalent of *in*, *on*, or *of*.

el/la/los/las + **[noun]** + más/menos + **[adjective]** + de

Ésta es **la playa más bonita de** la costa chilena.
This is the prettiest beach on the coast of Chile.

Es **el hotel menos caro del** pueblo.
It is the least expensive hotel in town.

¡ATENCIÓN!**Absolute superlatives**

The suffix **–ísimo/a** is added to adjectives and adverbs to form the *absolute superlative*. This form is the equivalent of *extremely* or *very* before an adjective or adverb in English.

malo → malísimo

mucha → muchísima

rápidos → rapidísimos

fáciles → facilísimas

Adjectives and adverbs with stems ending in **c**, **g**, or **z** change spelling to **qu**, **gu**, and **c** in the absolute superlative.

rico → riquísimo

larga → larguísima

feliz → felicísimo

Adjectives that end in **–n** or **–r** form the absolute by adding **–císimo/a**.

joven → jovencísimo

trabajador → trabajadorcísimo

- The noun may also be omitted from a superlative construction.

Me gustaría comer en **el restaurante más elegante del** barrio.
I would like to eat at the most elegant restaurant in the neighborhood.

Las Dos Palmas es **el más elegante de** la ciudad.
Las Dos Palmas is the most elegant one in the city.

Irregular comparatives and superlatives

Adjective	Comparative form	Superlative form
bueno/a <i>good</i>	mejor <i>better</i>	el/la mejor <i>best</i>
malo/a <i>bad</i>	peor <i>worse</i>	el/la peor <i>worst</i>
grande <i>big</i>	mayor <i>bigger</i>	el/la mayor <i>biggest</i>
pequeño/a <i>small</i>	menor <i>smaller</i>	el/la menor <i>smallest</i>
viejo/a <i>old</i>	mayor <i>older</i>	el/la mayor <i>oldest</i>
joven <i>young</i>	menor <i>younger</i>	el/la menor <i>youngest</i>

- When **grande** and **pequeño** refer to size and not age or quality, the regular comparative and superlative forms are used.

Ernesto es **más pequeño** que yo.

Ernesto is smaller than I am.

Ese edificio es **el más grande** de todos.

That building is the biggest one of all.

- When **mayor** and **menor** refer to age, they follow the noun they modify. When they refer to quality, they precede the noun.

Lucía es mi hermana **menor**.

Lucía is my younger sister.

La corrupción es el **menor** problema del candidato.

Corruption is the least of the candidate's problems.

- The adverbs **bien** and **mal** also have irregular comparatives.

bien <i>well</i>	mejor <i>better</i>
mal <i>badly</i>	peor <i>worse</i>

Ayúdame, que **tú** lo haces **mejor que yo**.
Give me a hand; you do it better than I do.