Comparative & superlative summary

* To say that something is **superior** to something else we use the structure:
  + x is more adjective than y (if the adjective has two or more syllables), or;
  + x is adjective-er than y (if the adjective has one syllable or two syllables ending in -y).
* To say that something is **inferior** to something else we use the structure:
  + x is less adjective than y, or;
  + x is not as adjective as y
  + When talking about quantities be careful! Use **less** when the quantity cannot be counted and **fewer** when the quantity can be counted.
* To say that something is **equivalent** to something else we use the structure:
  + x is as adjective as y
* To say that something is **superior** **to all other things** we use the structure:
  + x is the most adjective (if the adjective has two or more syllables), or;
  + x is the adjective-est (if the adjective has one syllable or two syllables ending in -y)

Going further with comparatives

Knowing how to use these structures is very useful but we can add more information by using **modifiers**.

* To indicate a **big difference** we can use words such as: *much, so much, far, a lot, a great deal*.
  + The USA is much larger than the UK.
  + Beer is so much better than wine.
  + David is far happier than he was last year.
  + It’s a lot colder here in winter than in summer.
  + Diamond is a great deal more impressive than graphite.
* To indicate a **big superiority** using **as…as** we can use: *twice, 5 times, etc.*
  + Usain Bolt is five times as fast as I am.
* To indicate a **big inferiority** using **as…as** we can use: *nowhere near, not nearly.*
  + The Earth is nowhere near as big as the sun.
  + She is not nearly as rich as her brother.
* To indicate a **small difference,** we can use words such as: *slightly, a little, a bit, a little bit, not much.* 
  + The number of students has been slightly lower than last year.
  + The weather in England is a little less pleasant than in France.
  + Piano is not much harder than guitar.
* To indicate a **small difference** using **as…as** we can use: *roughly, more or less, about.*
  + A football is roughly as heavy as a rugby ball.
* To indicate a **small inferiority** using **as…as** we can use: *almost, nearly, not quite, roughly, more or less, about.*
  + She is almost as old as me.
  + My house is not quite as expensive as yours.
* To indicate that two things are **exactly equal** using **as…as** we can use: *just*
  + Health is just as important as happiness
* Use **even** to establish superiority between two similar things.
  + The Sun is even hotter than Mercury.
  + In this sentence the word **even** serves to tell us that both the Sun and Mercury are hot, but the Sun is the hotter of the two.

Exercises

Complete the sentences with an appropriate word based on the description given.

1. The results were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ better than predicted. (We had predicted good results)
2. Profits are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the same as last year. (This years profits look very similar to last year’s)
3. She’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as demanding as our last manager. (The last manager was highly demanding. The new manager is not very demanding at all.)
4. I’m \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ less organised than you. (You’re very organised. I’m not at all organised)
5. Could you be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more specific about what the problem is? (I’m quite sure that I understand the problem, but with more information I certainly will.)
6. I think being kind is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as important as being honest. (Kindness and honesty are equally important.)

Write comparative sentences using the elements given.

1. Paris, Brest, big inferiority
2. Rugby, football, small inferiority
3. Men, women, exactly equal
4. Fun, work, big difference
5. Pacific ocean, Atlantic ocean, superiority of pacific ocean.
6. 10, 100, big superiority





