

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 even better than predicted. (We had predicted good results)
- about, roughly 2. Profits are almost the same as last year. (This years profits look very similar to last year's)
3. She's not nearly as demanding as our last manager. (The last manager was highly demanding. The new manager is not very demanding at all.)
4. I'm far/much less organised than you. (You're very organised. I'm not at all organised)
5. Could you be a little 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 just 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

1. Brest is nowhere near as big as Paris.
2. Rugby is almost as popular as football in America, but not in Africa.
3. Women are just as intelligent as men.
4. Fun is so much better than work. Fun is much less productive than work.
5. The Pacific ocean is far bigger than the Atlantic ocean.
6. 100 is 10 times as big as 10. / 100 is 10 times bigger than 10.

Triceratops

TOP TRUMPS



See me at: Dinosaur Museum, Dorchester

TOP TRUMPS FILE

A heavily armoured herbivore with three large horns, a frilled neck and a little beak like a parrot. Triceratops stayed in herds to protect it from other predators.

Height.....3
Weight.....5,500
Length.....9
Killer rating.....2
Intelligence.....4
Age.....72



Stegosaurus

TOP TRUMPS



See me at: Dinosaur Museum, Dorchester

TOP TRUMPS FILE

This plant-eater is famous for its bony plates that were not joined to a spine, but set into the skin. With a very small head, its brain was tiny, especially compared to its huge body.

Height.....3
Weight.....3,100
Length.....9
Killer rating.....2
Intelligence.....1
Age.....76



Diplodocus

TOP TRUMPS



See me at: Natural History Museum, London

TOP TRUMPS FILE

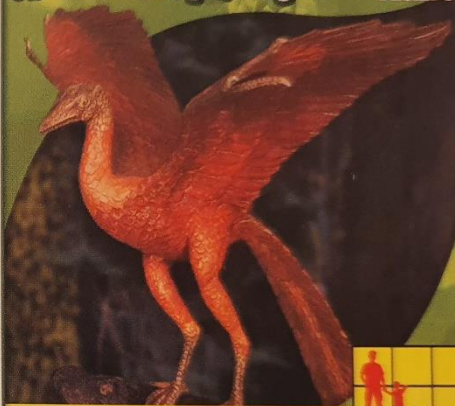
Diplodocus' bones were first found in 1877, and it was given a name that means 'double beam' because of its long neck and equally long tail. Its muscular tail could be used like a whip, to defend against attackers.

Height.....8
Weight...12,000
Length.....27
Killer rating.....0
Intelligence.....2
Age.....150



Archaeopteryx

TOP TRUMPS



See me at: Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow

TOP TRUMPS FILE

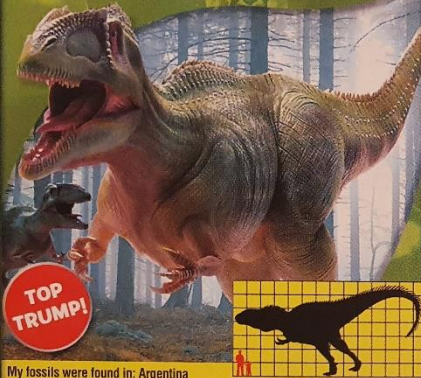
Archaeopteryx was a carnivorous prehistoric bird with a massive beak, filled with teeth, and a bony tail. It could only make short flights, as it did not have muscles strong enough to carry its big body.

Height.....0.3
Weight.....6
Length.....0.3
Killer rating.....6
Intelligence.....5
Age.....150



Giganotosaurus

TOP TRUMPS



My fossils were found in: Argentina

TOP TRUMPS FILE

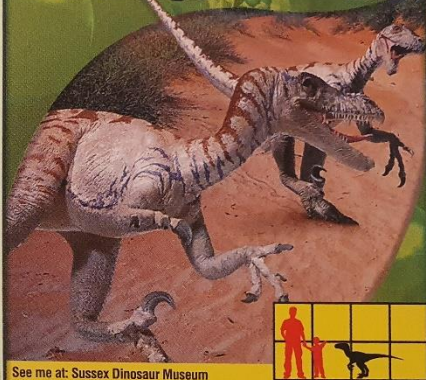
The biggest and deadliest known meat-eater, Giganotosaurus could run for long distances at great speeds due to its shock absorbing muscles.

Height.....6
Weight.....8,000
Length.....16
Killer rating....10
Intelligence.....7
Age.....100



Velociraptor

TOP TRUMPS



See me at: Sussex Dinosaur Museum

TOP TRUMPS FILE

'Raptors were savage killers. They would team up to attack prey with their razor-sharp teeth, claws like grappling-hooks and powerful jaws that could tear flesh. If that wasn't enough, they would use their strong legs to stamp the life out of small victims.

Height.....1
Weight.....15
Length.....2
Killer rating....9
Intelligence....10
Age.....85

