

Spanish

Week 4 – Alex Bailey

¡Hola a todos! I hope your 3rd week of Spanish went well! And congratulations if you have already finished your first exam of the course! Remember, we also provide free online tutoring for Spanish courses, so make sure to schedule appointments as needed at https://www.baylor.edu/support_programs/index.php?id=40917

Key Words:

- Equal Comparatives
- Unequal Comparatives
- Superlatives
- Absolute Superlatives

Comparatives

One of the most important functional sentences you will learn in any language is how to properly compare one thing to another. In Spanish, there are two main forms of comparative sentence structures we will use, equal and unequal.

Equal Comparatives

In an equal comparison structure, you will be formulating a sentence that roughly translates to “X is as _ as Y”. Refer to the sentence formulas below.

- Comparing an Adjective or Adverb among objects – **tan + (adj. or adv.) + como**
Ex. Alex es tan alto como tú. – Alex is as tall as you.
- Comparing a Noun among objects – **tanto + noun + como**
Ex. Alex tiene tantos amigos como tú. – Alex has as many friends as you do.
- Comparing a Verb among objects – **verb + tanto como**
Ex. Alex habla tanto como tú. – Alex talks as much as you do.

Unequal Comparatives

In an unequal comparison structure, you will be formulating a sentence that roughly translates to “X is more or less _ than Y”. Refer to the sentence formulas below.

- Comparing an Adjective, Adverb, or Noun among objects – **más + adj. + que**
Ex. Melanie es más alta que yo.
- Comparing a Verb among objects – **verb + más que**
Ex. Melanie estudia más que yo.

COMPARATIVES – COMPARATIVOS		
SUPERIOR	EQUAL	INFERIOR
MÁS + ADJ + QUE	TAN + ADJ + COMO	MENOS + ADJ + QUE

This diagram is a good summary of most comparative situations. You can find this diagram at: <https://funny-spanish.com/language/beyond-comparison-spanish-comparatives-and-superlatives>

Superlatives

Rather than comparing an aspect among objects, as we saw in the comparatives section, when we use a superlative sentence formula, we are simply stating that something is "the most or least _". Refer to the formula below:

Article + (más or menos) + Adj.

Ex. Marco es el más inteligente.

You can even add a noun or a group to spice things up 😊

Ex. Marco es el estudiante más inteligente de la clase.

Absolute Superlatives

Another way to convey that an object is the most or least of something is by using an absolute superlative. Rather than using mas or menos, we will modify the adjective to the subject by adding "-ísimo/ísima" (or "-ísimos/ísimas" in the plural form) to the end of the adjective.

Ex. guapo + -ísimo = guapísimo

I have attached a great YouTube video that goes more in depth into superlatives and comparatives" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbsElzVnvP4>

Practice Time!

Please translate the following sentences properly into English:

- Alex es más grande que Marco.
- Isabel es la más bonita de mi clase.
- Miguel nada tan rápido como yo.
- Mi hermanita habla tanto como mi madre.
- Mi padre es el altísimo de toda mi familia.
- Yo tengo menos dinero que tú.
- Maya no es la más estudiosa de la clase.

Answers

1. Alex is bigger than Marco.
2. Isabel is the most beautiful in the class.
3. Miguel swims as fast as I do.
4. My little sister talks as much as my mother does.
5. My father is the tallest in my entire family.
6. I have less money than you.
7. Maya is not the most studious in the class.



Studying Tip: Try this exercise to help better understand Superlatives and Comparatives. Gather 10 objects in your room and right down in Spanish 10 sentences comparing each object to the other, using all the forms we learned. 😊