



Lección 8

La comida

L8.3

**COMPARISONS /
LOS COMPARATIVOS**

What is a comparative?

A comparative adjective is an adjective used to compare two people or things. We use comparative adjectives to say that one person or thing demonstrates a high degree of a quality or is a better example of a quality than the other.

Examples:

tall – taller	famous – more famous
heavy – heavier	fast – faster
large – larger	good – better
big – bigger	hot – hotter

ANTE TODO



★ Both Spanish and English use comparisons to indicate which of two people or things has a lesser, equal, or greater degree of a quality.

Comparisons

menos interesante
less interesting

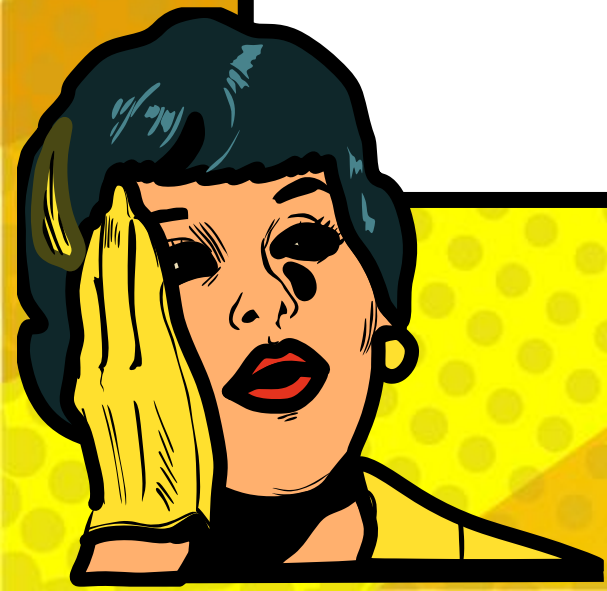
tan sabroso como...
as delicious as

más grande
bigger

Comparisons of Inequality

★ Comparisons of inequality are formed by placing **más** (more) or **menos** (less) before adjectives, adverbs, and nouns and **que** (than) after them.

subject + conjugated verb + **más / menos** + *adjective
adverb
noun* + **que** + noun



¡ATENCIÓN!



★ Note that while English has a comparative form for short adjectives (taller), such forms do not exist in Spanish (**más** alto).

adjectives

Los bisteces son **más caros que** el pollo.
Steaks are more expensive than chicken.

Estas uvas son **menos ricas que** esa pera.
These grapes are less tasty than that pear.

adverbs

Me acuesto **más tarde que** tú.
I go to bed later than you (do).

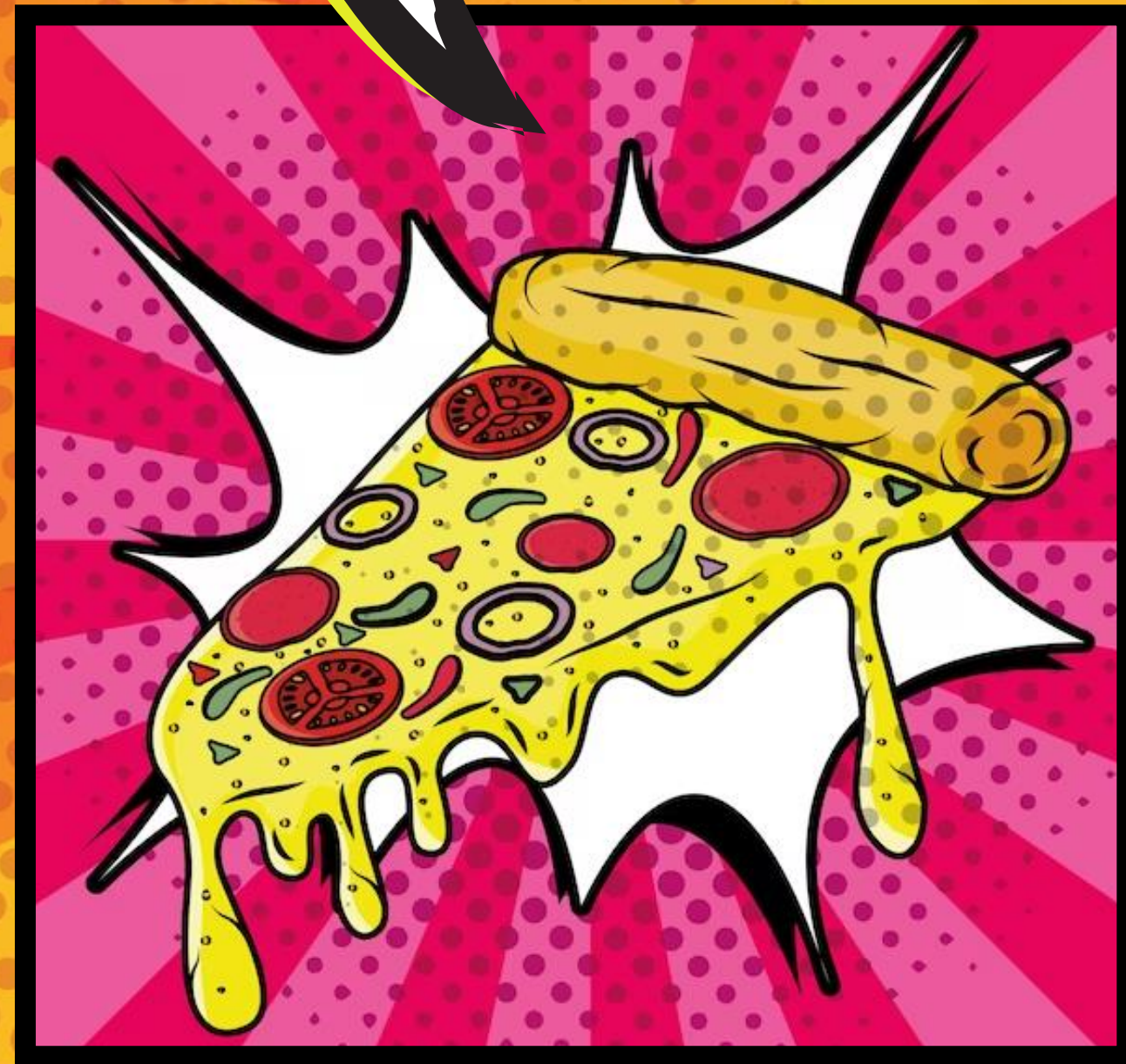
Luis se despierta **menos temprano que** yo.
Luis wakes up less early than I (do).

nouns

Juan prepara **más platos que** José.
Juan prepares more dishes than José (does).

Susana come **menos carne que** Enrique.
Susana eats less meat than Enrique (does).

La pizza de pepperoni es **más sabrosa que** la hamburguesa.



El té de boba es **más caro que** un café capuchino.



HEY!

★ When the comparison involves a numerical expression, **de** is used before the number instead of **que**.

Hay más **de** cincuenta naranjas
There are more than fifty oranges.

Llego en menos **de** cinco minutos.
I'll be there in less than five minutes.

★ With verbs, this construction is used to make comparisons of inequality.

subject + **verb** + **más / menos que** + noun

Mis hermanos **comen más que** yo.
My brothers eat more than you (do).

Arturo **duerme menos que** su padre.
Arturo sleeps less than his father (does).

Comparisons of Equality

★ This construction is used to make comparisons of equality.

tan + *adjective
adverb* + **como**

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

¿Es **tan** linda
como yo?



¿Aquí venden **tantas**
hamburguesas **como**
refrescos?

¡ATENCIÓN!

★ Note that unlike **tan**, **tanto** acts as an adjective and therefore agrees in number and gender with the noun it modifies.

Estas uvas son **tan ricas como** aquéllas.
These grapes are as tasty as those ones (are).

Yo probé **tantos platos como** él.
I tried as many dishes as he

★ **Tan** and **tanto** can also be used for emphasis, rather than to compare, with these meanings: **tan** so, **tanto** so much, **tantos/as** so many.

¡Tu almuerzo es **tan** grande!
Your lunch is so big!

¡Comes **tanto**!
You eat so much!

¡Comes **tantas** manzanas!
You eat so many apples!
¡Preparan **tantos** platillos!
They prepare so many dishes!

★ Comparisons of equality with verbs are formed by placing **tanto como** after the verb. Note that in this construction **tanto** does not change in number or gender.

subject + **verb** + **tanto como** + noun

Tú viajas **tanto como** mi tía.
You travel as much as my aunt (does).



Ellos hablan **tanto como** mis hermanas.
They talk as much as my sisters.



Irregular Comparisons

★ Some adjectives have irregular comparative forms.

Adjective

bueno/a	<i>good</i>
malo/a	<i>bad</i>
grande	<i>big, grown, adult</i>
pequeño/a	<i>small</i>
joven	<i>young</i>
viejo/a	<i>old</i>

Comparative form

mejor	<i>better</i>
peor	<i>worse</i>
mayor	<i>bigger; older</i>
menor	<i>smaller; younger</i>

★ When **grande** and **pequeño/a** refer to age, the irregular comparative forms, **mayor** and **menor**, are used. However, when these adjectives refer to size, the regular forms, **más grande** and **más pequeño/a**, are used.

Yo soy **mayor** que tú.
I am older than you.

Él pidió una hamburguesa **más pequeña**.
He ordered a smaller burger.

Su combo es **más grande**.
His/Her combo is bigger.



★ The adverbs **bien** and **mal** have the same irregular comparative forms as the adjectives **bueno/a** and **malo/a**, **mejor** and **peor**.

María baila **mejor** que las otras chicas.
María dances better than the other girls.

Julio canta **peor** que su papá.
Julio sings worse than his dad.



OMG!