Comparison frames

From these examples you can see that the two sides of a comparison frame can be either very close to each other or very far away from each other.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **as**  **so** | **+** | XXXX | **+** | **as** |
| * This year’s sales have not been as strong as last year’s. * There aren’t so many people in the project as there used to be. | | | | |
| **the same** | **+** | (XXXX) | **+** | **as** |
| * My solution is almost the same as yours. * We found the same kinds of errors in the output data generated during this year’s quality control check as we saw last year. | | | | |
| **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-er**  **more \_\_\_\_\_\_** | **+** | (XXXX) | **+** | **than** |
| * Solution A is much easier than solution B. * It’s more cost effective to involve all the critical people in the early stages of the planning process so that the right decisions can be made than to wait until it’s too late to change anything. | | | | |

Practice

**1. I think this file is about the same size \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the one I looked at yesterday.**

a) like

b) than

c) as

d) with

**2. This is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ problem than the one we worked on yesterday, isn't it!**

a) difficulter

b) more difficult

c) more difficulter

**3. I think this job isn't nearly as difficult \_\_\_\_\_\_ the last one I did.**

a) than

b) as

c) like

d) that

**4. Fewer people were at the workshop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I had expected.**

a) as

b) than

c) like

d) that

**5. There aren't as many computers in this office \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the one across the hall.**

a) like

b) than

c) as

d) that

**6. Account No. 455 should have the same number of invoices listed \_\_\_\_\_\_ you see in the general report on page 74.**

a) than

b) as

c) like

**7. Unemployment is much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it was last year at this time.**

a) higher than

b) more high than

c) more higher than

d) higher as

**8. Most of the time she does the same kind of work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I do.**

a) as

b) than

c) like

**9. Unfortunately the meeting lasted much longer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expected.**

a) like

b) as

c) that

d) than

**10. Let's try to get this done as fast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ possible.**

a) as

b) that

c) than

d) like

**11. Unfortunately, we will probably have to make just as many corrections tomorrow \_\_\_\_\_\_ we have already done today.**

a) like

b) as

c) than

d) that

**12. As you can see from this graph, energy costs have risen much more rapidly this year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they did last year.**

a) that

b) as

c) than

d) like

**13. With this new software, it will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to run a reconciliation check.**

a) much easier

b) much more easy

c) much more easier

d) more easy

**14. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ products were produced in Russia than in France.**

a) Fewer

b) Less

c) Lesser

d) Few

**15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ oil was imported from Nigeria than from Iraq.**

a) Few

b) Less

c) Fewer

d) Lesser

Activate your knowledge!

Discuss some of the following topics, using as many of the comparison frames as you can.

* Compare this year’s and last year’s performance of your company.
* Compare your job – this year and 5 years ago.
* Compare your life today with your life 10 years ago.
* Compare your life and the lives of your parents. Grandparents.