

English Grammar – Equality (as ... as)

1) We use “**as** + adjective/adverb + **as**” to make comparisons when the things are equal:

The world’s biggest bull is **as big as** a small elephant.

The weather this summer is **as bad as** last year.

2) We can use the same structure to describe *possibility* or *ability*:

You have to unwrap it **as carefully as** you can. It’s fragile.

The plane flew **as high as** it could.

We got here **as fast as** we could.

3) We use “**not as** + adjective/adverb + **as**” to make comparisons between unequal things:

It’s **not as heavy as** I thought.

Rory is **not as tall as** Tommy.

She’s **not** singing **as loudly as** she can.

They didn’t play **as well as** usual.

4) When we want to make comparisons referring to quantity, we use “(not) **as much ... as**” (*tão quanto*) with *uncountable nouns* and “(not) **as many ... as**” (*tanto quanto*) with *countable nouns*.

Greg makes **as much money as** Mike but **not as much as** Neil.

We give them **as much freedom as** we can.

There weren’t **as many people as** I expected.

She eats **as much as** me.

Liz has **as many shoes as** Maria but **not as many as** Julie.

5) We can use “**as much as**” and “**as many as**” before a quantity to add emotion or emphasis:

I met a man today who weighs **as much as** 500kg!

There were **as many as** 50 people in the tiny classroom.

We can use “**as little as**” and “**as few as**” similarly (same as ‘only’):

I met a man today who weighs **as little as** 30kg!

There were **as few as** 5 people in the huge classroom.

6) Similes.

as strong as an ox

as light as a feather

as stubborn as a mule

as high as a kite

as cold as ice

With irony: **as useful as** a chocolate teapot

as welcome as a fart in a spacesuit

7) Expressions.

- **as well as** = *tão bem quanto / assim como*
I play the piano **as well as** Elton John.
John is going to the party **as well as** Peter.
- **as soon as** = *assim que*
I drink coffee **as soon as** I get up every day.
I will come **as soon as** possible. (*as soon as possible = ASAP*)
As soon as I arrive home, I take off my shoes.
I will call you **as soon as** I have finished.
- **as long as** = *desde que*
You can come with me **as long as** you help.
- **for as long as necessary** = *pelo tempo que for preciso*
I will continue to try **for as long as necessary**.
- **as far as I know** = *até onde sei*
As far as I know, Peter is not married.
- **as far as I can** = *o mais longe que puder*
I will travel **as far as I can**.

Exercise. Translate to English:

1. A Maria joga futebol tão bem quanto o irmão dela.

2. Ele toma café assim que acorda.

3. Você deve jogar a bola o mais alto que puder.

4. Eu estudo tanto quanto você.

5. Minha mãe fala inglês tão bem quanto meu pai.

6. A Luciana vai aprender inglês assim como a Vera.

7. Peter não é tão inteligente quanto Mary.

8. Cheguei aqui o mais rápido que pude.
