

## English Grammar: Equality/Inequality

We use the structure “**as** (adjective) **as**” to describe two equal things. For example:

- My wife is **as** beautiful **as** Selma Hayek.
- My son is **as** intelligent **as** Einstein.
- An Audi is **as** good **as** a BMW.
- My teacher is **as** strict **as** my father.
- My sister is **not as** clever **as** my brother.
- The Empire State Building is **not as** tall **as** the Burj Khalifa.



An English “simile” is an expression which equates two things, often in a funny way. Examples:

- as clear as mud                    “Thanks for the explanation. It was as clear as mud!”
- as cool as a cucumber        “My brother is as cool as a cucumber. He’s great!”
- as deaf as a post                “My grandmother is as deaf as a post.”

**Exercise 1.** Complete the following sentences using “as...as”:

1. John is (tall) \_\_\_\_\_ Peter.
2. Janet is (beautiful) \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer.
3. You are (crazy) \_\_\_\_\_ my sister.
4. We can run (fast) \_\_\_\_\_ them.
5. My dad is (not / strict) \_\_\_\_\_ your dad.
6. Your cell phone is (not / cool) \_\_\_\_\_ mine.
7. “Matrix 2” was (not / good) \_\_\_\_\_ “Matrix 1”.
8. This pie is (not / tasty) \_\_\_\_\_ the one which I ate yesterday.

**Exercise 2.** Complete the following sentences using “as...as” or “not as...as”.

1. São Paulo is \_\_\_\_\_ Rio.
2. Buses are \_\_\_\_\_ cars.
3. Fortaleza is \_\_\_\_\_ Recife.
4. Volleyball is \_\_\_\_\_ basketball.

**Exercise 3.** Rewrite the following sentences using “as...as” or “not as...as”.

Examples: *Recife is hot. Fortaleza is hot too.*  
Fortaleza is **as hot as** Recife.

*Dana’s dog is bigger than Jamie’s dog.*  
Jamie’s dog is **not as big as** Dana’s dog.

1. Apples are healthier than ice cream.

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2. Ann’s cellphone is newer than my cellphone.

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3. Joe is 80 years old. Jeff is 80 years old too.

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4. China is bigger than Taiwan.

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5. Linda can run fast. Ryan can run the same speed.

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**Exercise 4.** Can you complete these English similes?

1. As strong as \_\_\_\_\_.

2. As stubborn as \_\_\_\_\_.

3. As useless as \_\_\_\_\_.

4. As fast as \_\_\_\_\_.

5. As cold as \_\_\_\_\_.



**a mule**



**an ox**



**lightning**



**ice**



**a chocolate  
teapot**

We can also use this structure for irony. For example:

- You are **as useful as a chocolate teapot**.
- His visit is **as welcome as a fart in a spacesuit**.