

Lesson Plan: As...as comparisons

Level	Beginner / Intermediate (A2–B1)
Time	50–60 minutes
Skills	Grammar, speaking, writing
Focus	Positive and negative as...as; just as / not quite as / not nearly as; twice as

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Form positive comparisons with as + adjective + as
- Form negative comparisons with not as + adjective + as
- Use intensifiers: just as, not quite as, not nearly as, twice as
- Avoid the common error of using 'than' with as...as structures

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Positive: as + adj + as (equal)

- She's as tall as her brother. (= same height)
- This test is as hard as the last one.
- Is the film as good as the book?

Negative: not as + adj + as (unequal)

- London isn't as sunny as Madrid.
- He's not as experienced as his colleague.
- The new restaurant isn't as expensive as the old one.

Intensifiers — adding precision

- just as: It's just as cold today as yesterday. (= exactly equal)
- not quite as: She's not quite as confident as before. (= almost equal, slightly less)
- not nearly as: This is not nearly as difficult as I expected. (= very different — big gap)
- twice as: He earns twice as much as I do. (= double)

Meaning & Nuance

Structure	Meaning	Example
as tall as	equal height	She's as tall as her sister.
not as tall as	B is taller than A	She's not as tall as her sister.
just as tall as	exactly equal	He's just as tall as his brother.
not quite as tall as	almost, but slightly less	She's not quite as tall as she used to be.
not nearly as tall as	significantly shorter	He's not nearly as tall as his father.
twice as tall as	double the height	The new building is twice as tall as the old one.

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Spot the difference (5 min)

Task: Show two similar images. Students describe differences using comparatives first, then as...as.

- 'This building is taller than the other one.' vs. 'Both buildings are as tall as each other.'

→ Shows naturally when to use as...as vs. comparative adjective.

2. Presentation (10 min)

Task: Introduce the three patterns: positive, negative, and intensified.

- Stress: as...as = equal. Not as...as = unequal (one is more).
- Intensifiers are high-frequency in native speech — worth teaching early.
- Common error: 'not as tall than' → must be 'not as tall as'.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Complete sentences and transform comparatives into as...as structures.

- 'She's shorter than him.' → 'She's not as tall as him.'
- 'Both options cost the same.' → 'Option A is as expensive as option B.'

4. Comparison debate (20 min)

Task: Students compare two things of their choice: cities, sports, phones, films.

- Must use at least 4 as...as comparisons.
- Partner challenges: 'Do you really think it's just as good?'

→ Forces authentic use of intensifiers.

TEACHER NOTES

- Learners often use 'than' with as...as: 'not as tall than' — drill the correction explicitly.
- Twice as / three times as are great extensions for stronger students — high frequency in authentic English.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write 8 sentences comparing two people, places, or things using as...as and not as...as.
2. Write a short paragraph comparing two cities using at least 4 as...as structures.
3. Transform 6 comparative sentences into as...as sentences and vice versa.