



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Banta Learning Adjectives and Adverbs 7 by K S Sandhu

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A Gentle Companion

Emma's old dog, Max, had been her best friend for fourteen years. As he grew older, she noticed how much more slowly he walked than before. He no longer ran vigorously in the park like when he was young. Instead, he moved cautiously, sniffing every step to avoid bumping into things.

Emma read that elderly pets don't see or hear as well as younger ones, so she treated Max far more carefully than her neighbour's lively puppy. She never let him go far outside alone – traffic was too dangerous, and Max couldn't react as quickly as he used to.

Exercise became different too. Max couldn't play fetch as energetically as in the past; he tired much more quickly. Emma took him for short, gentle walks more frequently – three times a day instead of once – but always patiently, letting him rest whenever he needed. "He exercises far less vigorously now," she told her friend Lisa, "but it's better than nothing."

Feeding time changed most noticeably. Max ate smaller amounts but more often than before – sometimes four small meals a day. He chewed much more slowly, dropping bits here and there, but Emma watched attentively and never rushed him. "Young dogs gulp food more greedily," she laughed, "but Max savours every bite more deliberately."

One day, Max struggled to climb the stairs. Emma carried him more gently than ever, her heart aching. She started using a ramp more regularly and added soft mats everywhere so he wouldn't slip. At the vet, the doctor said, "You're doing the best you can. Older pets need care more compassionately than young ones."

Emma also noticed Max slept much longer during the day and played less enthusiastically. But when he wagged his tail more weakly yet still happily at her voice, it warmed her heart. She brushed him more meticulously now, checking for sore spots, and spoke to him more softly, knowing he heard less clearly.

Max lived far longer than many expected because Emma adapted more thoughtfully. She learned that caring for an elderly pet means loving more

patiently and observing more closely. In the end, Max didn't live as actively as before, but he lived more peacefully – and that was the greatest gift she could give.

One quiet evening, as Max rested his head on her lap more contentedly than ever, Emma whispered, "You've taught me to love more deeply." And in his peaceful eyes, she saw he understood better than words could say.

Questions:

Question 1: How does Max walk now compared to when he was young, and why does Emma treat him more carefully?

Question 2: How often does Emma take Max for walks now, and how does this compare to before?

Question 3: In what way does Max eat compared to young dogs, and how many times a day does he eat now?

Question 4: What does the vet say Emma is doing the best she can, and how should older pets be cared for?

Question 5: What has Max taught Emma, and how does she feel he understands her love?

Answers:

Answer 1: Max walks much more slowly now than before. Emma treats him far more carefully because elderly pets don't see or hear as well as younger ones and can fall over or bang into things.

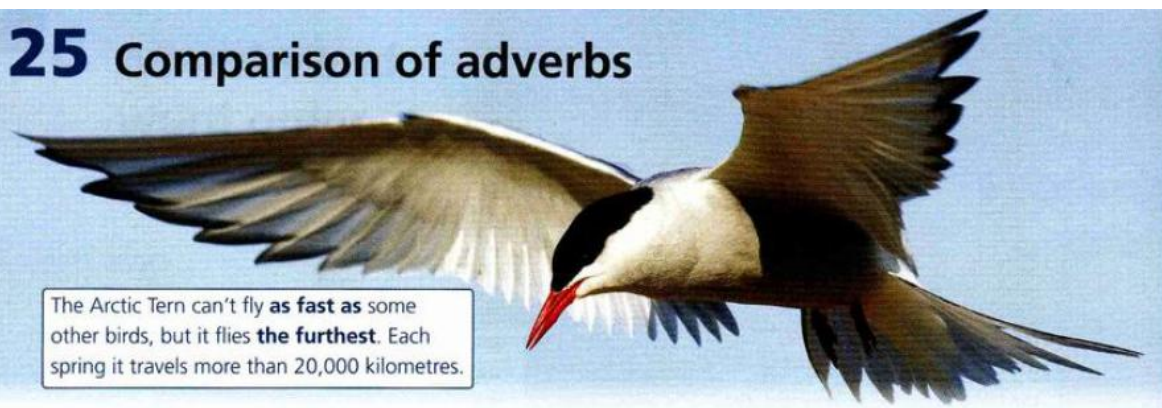
Answer 2: Emma takes Max for short, gentle walks more frequently now (three times a day instead of once), because he can't exercise as energetically as in the past and tires much more quickly.

Answer 3: Max eats much more slowly and chews more deliberately than young dogs, which gulp food more greedily. He eats smaller amounts but more often – sometimes four small meals a day.

Answer 4: The vet says Emma is doing the best she can. Older pets need to be cared for more compassionately than young ones.

Answer 5: Max has taught Emma to love more patiently and to observe more closely. She feels he understands better than words can say, especially when he rests his head on her lap more contentedly than ever.

25 Comparison of adverbs



The Arctic Tern can't fly **as fast as** some other birds, but it flies **the furthest**. Each spring it travels more than 20,000 kilometres.

1 Regular comparative and superlative forms

We use *more* + adverb (+ *than*) to make comparative forms of adverbs of manner and of the adverbs *often*, *rarely* and *frequently*:

*I eat **more slowly than** other people.*

*Can you speak **more quietly**? I'm trying to rest.*

*You see foxes in towns **more frequently** these days.*

We make superlative forms of adverbs with *(the) most* + adverb:

*Daniel has the highest phone bill because he uses his phone **(the) most often**.*

The opposite of *more/the most* + adverb is *less/the least* + adverb:

*I go to the dentist **less regularly than** I used to.*

*Of all the heaters in the test, the MaxHeat worked **the least efficiently**.*

2 Other comparative and superlative forms

Some adverbs have the same comparative and superlative forms as adjectives:

early → *earlier/(the) earliest*

high → *higher/(the) highest*

low → *lower/(the) lowest*

fast → *faster/(the) fastest*

late → *later/(the) latest*

near → *nearer/(the) nearest*

hard → *harder/(the) hardest*

long → *longer/(the) longest*

soon → *sooner/(the) soonest*

⚠ We don't use *more/the most* with these adverbs:

*✗ Cats can climb ~~more high than~~ dogs. ✓ Cats can climb **higher** than dogs.*

*✗ Borzov ran ~~the most fast in the~~ race. ✓ Borzov ran **the fastest** in the race.*

There are some irregular comparative and superlative adverbs:

well → *better/(the) best*

badly → *worse/(the) worst*

far → *farther/further/(the) farthest/furthest*

*Do you live **further** from college than me? I played **worse** than usual yesterday.*

*The Arctic Tern flies **the furthest**. Karl played **best** in last Saturday's match.*

NATURAL ENGLISH We often leave out *the* in superlative adverbs, especially irregular ones:

*Karl played **best** in last Saturday's match.*

We don't use superlative adverbs very often; we prefer to use a superlative adjective:

*Karl **played best** in last Saturday's match. → Karl was **the best** player.*

Practice

1 Complete the sentences with a comparative (C) or superlative (S) form of the adverb in brackets.

- 0 I'm putting on weight – I should go to the gym *more often* (C often)
- 00 Which website sells airline tickets *the most cheaply*? (S cheap)
- 1 Which bird flies? (S high)
- 2 Children need to visit a dentist than adults do. (C frequent)
- 3 Who sang on the show yesterday? (S good)
- 4 Of all the cars in the test, the Mazda went (S fast)
- 5 Please speak – I can't understand you. (C slow)
- 6 Which type of battery lasts? (S long)
- 7 You've made lots of mistakes. Please work next time. (C careful)
- 8 Don't get the ten o'clock train. It arrives than the others. (C late)

2 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first, using the word in brackets. Use two to five words in your answer. 2.49 Listen and check.

- 0 I don't use the Internet as often as my colleagues. (less)
I use the Internet *less often than* my colleagues.
- 1 Computers work much faster than they used to. (as)
Computers didn't use to they do now.
- 2 I think Carreras sang better than the others. (best)
I think Carreras
- 3 Sue doesn't speak Spanish as fluently as I do. (more)
I speak Spanish Sue.
- 4 Ali played the worst in the golf tournament. (player)
Ali in the golf tournament.
- 5 People wear formal clothes less frequently these days. (as)
People don't wear formal clothes they used to.

3 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the text with suitable forms of the words in brackets. Add any other words that are necessary, e.g. *more, less, as, than*. 2.50 Listen and check.

Caring for elderly pets

As pets get older their needs change. You should be aware of these changes and treat older pets (0) *much more carefully than* (much / careful) younger ones.

- Elderly cats and dogs don't see or hear (1) (good) young ones. As a result, they sometimes fall over or bang into things. Because of the dangers of traffic, don't allow them to travel (2) (far) a short distance outside your home.
- Older animals often have problems such as arthritis, so they can't move (3) (easy) they used to. Even if they are healthy, they can't walk or run (4) (quick) young animals. They exercise (5) (far / frequent) and get tired (6) (much / quick).
- Older pets eat smaller amounts but they need to eat (7) (often) young ones – as much as three times a day. You will notice that they eat (8) (slow) they did when they were young, but this is usually nothing to worry about.

Answers

UNIT 25

- 1** 1 the highest 2 more frequently 3 the best
4 the fastest 5 more slowly 6 the longest
7 more carefully 8 later
- 2** 1 work as fast as 2 sang the best 3 more fluently
than 4 was the worst player 5 as frequently as
- 3** 1 as well as 2 further than 3 as easily as 4 as
quickly as 5 far less frequently 6 much more
quickly 7 more often than 8 more slowly than