

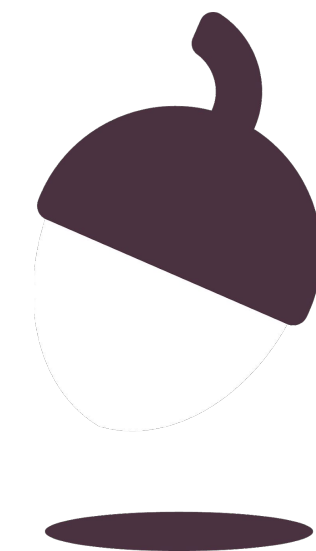
German

Explaining what you did/used to do (Part 2/2)

Further comparisons

Downloadable Resource

Herr Scales



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

häufig	<i>frequent</i>
ruhig	<i>quiet</i>
laut	<i>loud, noisy</i>
spannend	<i>exciting</i>
entspannend	<i>relaxing</i>
ernst	<i>serious</i>
locker	<i>relaxed, easy going</i>
faul	<i>lazy</i>
nützlich	<i>useful</i>
nutzlos	<i>useless</i>



Here is a reminder on rules for forming the comparative

Add **-er** to an adjective or adverb to form the comparative:

Das Auto ist billig = *the car is cheap.*

Dieses Auto ist billiger = *this car is cheaper.*

Das Haus ist teuer = *the house is expensive*

Dieses Haus ist teurer = *this house is **more expensive**.*

Note: English uses 'more' to make the comparative with most adjectives of more than one syllable. German always adds **-er**.

Spelling differences:
-e □ -er – müde □ müder
-el □ -ler – dunkel □ dunkler
-er □ -rer – teuer □ teurer
(if -er preceded by a vowel).



You may recall that to compare two things, we use als to mean than:

Die Busse fahren häufiger **als** damals = *the buses travel more frequently **than** back then.*

Ich verstehe mehr **als** früher = *I understand more **than** in former times/before.*

Use **mehr** (more) on its own as an adverb but never before an adjective.

So in English useful → ~~usefuler~~ → more useful

But in German nützlich → ~~mehr nützlich~~ → nützlich**er**



Der Komparativ

Most single syllable adjectives and adverbs do this: oft, alt, jung, kalt, warm, kurz, nah.

Some comparatives add an umlaut to the vowel (a, o, u):

Das Spiel war lang = *the game was long*

Dieses Spiel war **länger** = *this game was longer***er**

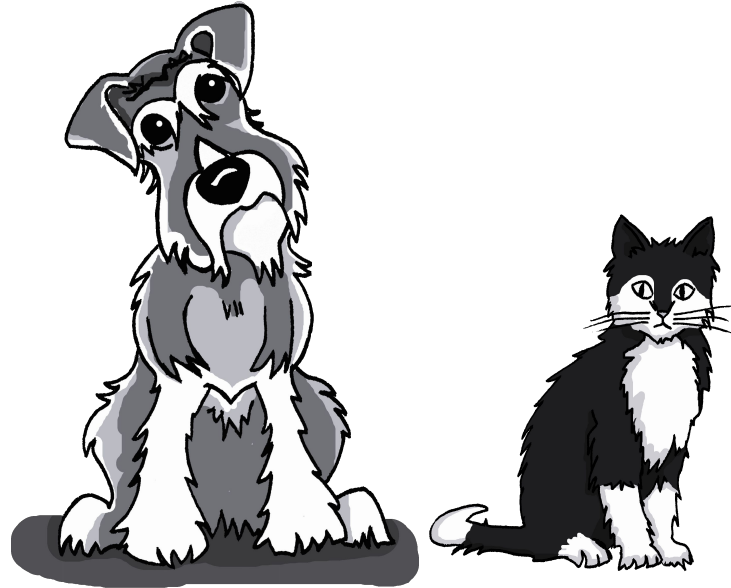
But not all!

Mein Bruder ist laut = *my brother is loud*

Dein Bruder ist lauter**er** = *your brother is louder*.



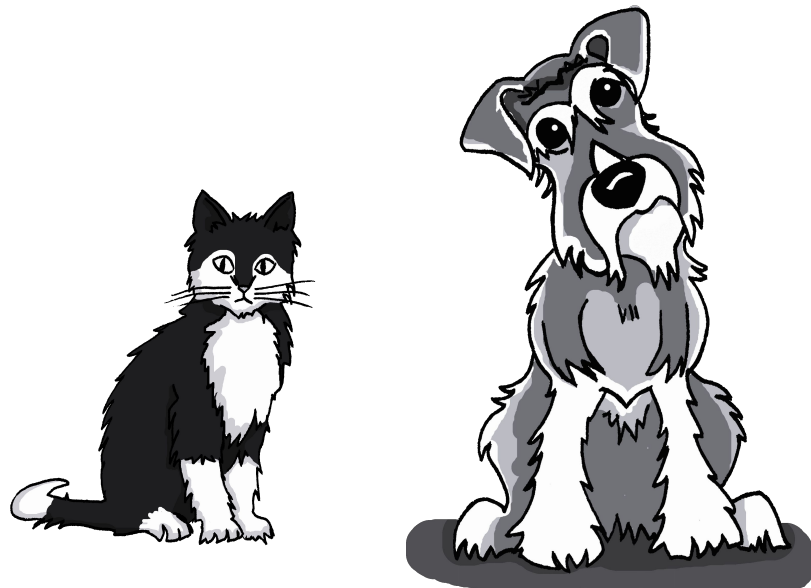
Although we might compare like this:



Einstein ist größer **als** Mieze.

*Einstein is bigger **than** Mieze.*

We can also turn it round and compare like this:



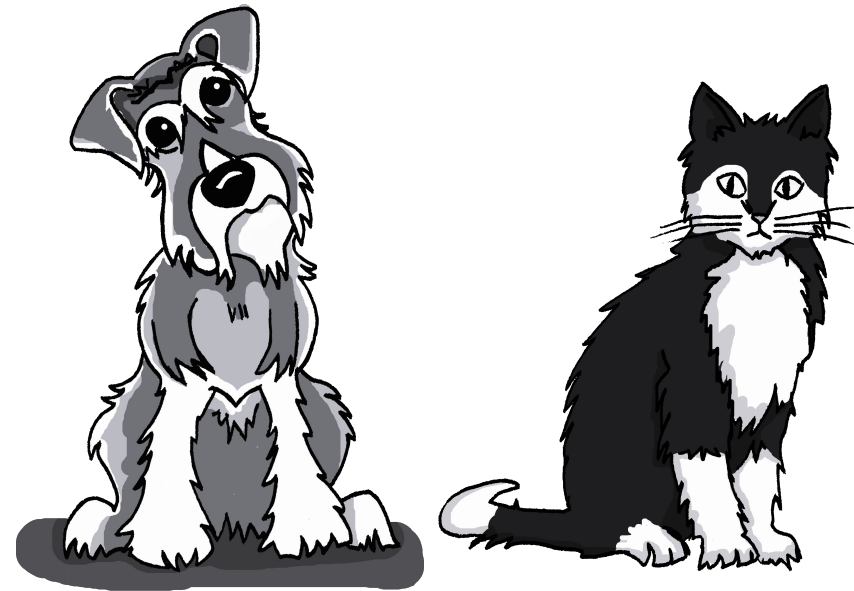
Mieze ist **nicht so** groß **wie** Einstein

*Mieze is **not as** big **as** Einstein*

Note: we use the basic form of the adjective here



Also note the following:

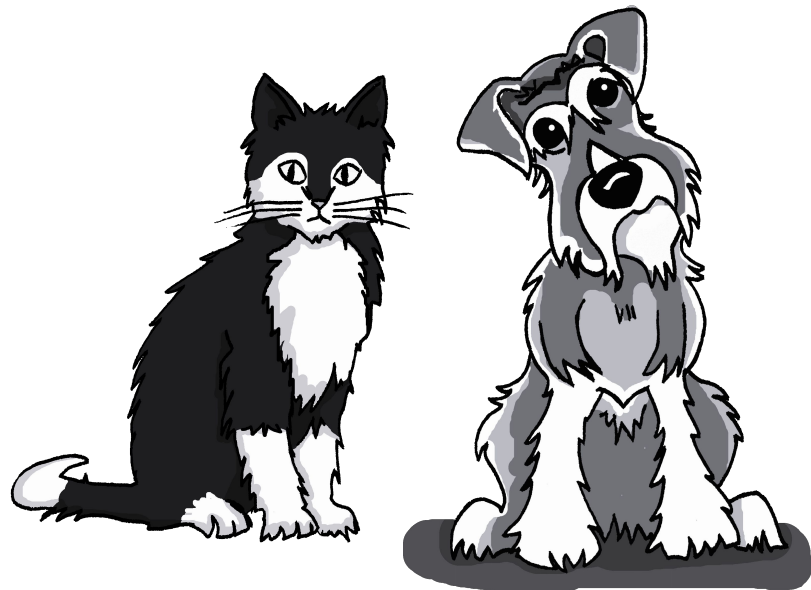


You already know other meanings for **so** (so, in that way) and **wie** (how).

Einstein ist **so** groß **wie** Mieze.

*Einstein is **as** big **as** Mieze.*

Germans often add **genau** to the **so** like this:



On its own, **genau** means "exactly"

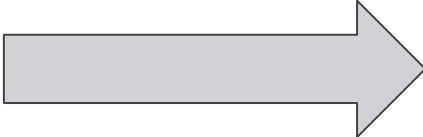
Mieze ist **genauso** groß **wie** Einstein

*Mieze is **just as** big **as** Einstein*



Summary of learning

In German, comparatives are formed by adding - er to the adjective

Eg *faul*  *fauler*

However, sometimes you can compare using the basic form of the adjective

Eg *not as lazy as* = nicht so *faul* wie

just as lazy as = genauso *faul* wie

