

**General**

Negative comparisons can be very useful in academic writing. Again, there is some difference between short and long words.

Apart from just using 'not' as in 'not larger than', 'not the largest', there are other negative forms;  
'not as..as',  
'less'  
'the least'

**Not as..as**

You can use this in comparatives with all types of words. Be clear about the meaning;  
(eg London is not as large as Tokyo = Tokyo is larger than London)

**Less**

This means the same as above. However, you can only use it with long words. (ie London is not as expensive as Tokyo = London is less expensive than Tokyo)

**The least**

You can use this in superlatives. However, you can only use it with long words.

**Notes**

Unlike with positive comparisons, the adjectives and adverbs don't change.

For other points, see comparisons 1.

**Examples**

Look at some examples to see how these rules work. Also compare them with the examples in comparisons 1.

**Form**

	Comparing two (comparatives)	Comparing many (superlatives)
<b>Short/-y ending words</b>		
<i>Adjectives</i> great large easy	<b>not as</b> great <b>as</b> large easy	- (not possible!)
<i>Adverbs</i> easily	<b>not as</b> easily <b>as</b>	- (not possible!)
<b>Long words</b>		
<i>Adjectives</i> careful economic	<b>not as</b> careful <b>as</b> <b>less</b> economic (than)	<b>the least</b> careful (in) <b>the least</b> economic
<i>Adverbs</i> carefully economically	<b>not as</b> carefully <b>as</b> <b>less</b> economically "	<b>the least</b> carefully " <b>the least</b> economically

**Examples**

**not as..as**

1. The manufacturing sector is **not as large as** the retail one.
2. Saving is **not as easy as** spending.
3. Because of the time, they **did not work as carefully as** usual.

**less**

1. Because of the time, they worked **less carefully** than usual.
2. It makes **less economic sense** to impose trade barriers than to tax imports.

**the least**

1. Cutting staff was **the least economic solution**.
2. Africa is maybe **the least economically powerful area** in the world.