

AS...AS not SO...AS



as...as

We use as + adjective/adverb + as to make comparisons when the things we are comparing are equal in some way.

- The world's biggest bull is **as big as** a small elephant.
- The weather this summer is **as bad as** last year. It hasn't stopped raining for weeks.
- You have to unwrap it **as carefully as** you can. It's quite fragile.

not as ... as

We use “**not as ... as**” to make comparisons between things which aren't equal:

- This bag is **not as heavy as** I thought it would be.
- Rory hasn't **grown as tall as** Tommy yet.

not SO...as

(*formal*) we use not so + adjective/adverb + as in comparisons to say that something or someone has less of a particular quality than another person or thing.

- The cycling was good but **not so hard as** the cross country skiing we did.
- The bed was **not so comfortable as** his own.
- The idea is **not so silly as** it sounds.

common mistake :

In comparisons without ‘not’, we use “as ... as” not “so ... as”:

We say:

- ✓ Your writing is as bad as mine.

We don't say:

- ✗ Your writing is so bad as mine.

Note:

“not so ... as” is less common than “not as ... as”.