

COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

— To compare people, things or situations we use the **comparative** form of adjectives.

Now study the following table:

	Comparative of Superiority	Comparative of Equality	Comparative of Inferiority
Short Adjectives	- er than	as + adj + as	less + adj + than
Long Adjectives	more + adj + than	as + adj + as	less + adj + than

Good — better than;

Bad — worse than;

Far — further than or farther than

1. Spelling Rules:

a) 1 syllable ending in **e**:

large: ADJ. + R + THAN - *larger than*.

b) 1 syllable (cons. + vowel + cons.)

fat: DOUBLE CONSONANT ADJ. + ER + THAN - *fatter than*.

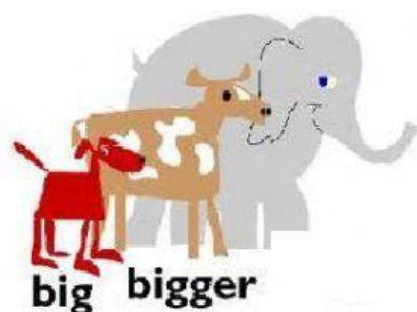
c) 2-syllables adjectives ending in y

lucky: ADJ. + IER + THAN - *luckier than*.

d) 2-syllable adjectives stressed on the first syllable or ending in **-ow**, **-er** and **-le**

common, narrow, clever, simple: ER + THAN or

MORE + ADJ. + THAN - *simpler than* or *more simple than*.



1. Match the situations with the comparative they represent:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Speaking English fluently is more important than people think. _____</p> <p>2. American English is less formal than British English. _____</p> <p>3. Speaking English is as important as speaking one's native tongue. _____</p> | <p>4. The number of native Chinese speakers is larger than the number of native English speakers. _____</p> <p>a) Comparative of Equality;
b) Comparative of Superiority;
c) Comparative Inferiority.</p> |
|--|---|

2. Put the adjectives in brackets in the comparative form:

- a) In the EU there is a _____ (**great**) variety of official languages _____ in the USA. (superiority)
- b) Most foreigners find learning Portuguese _____ (**difficult**) learning English. (equality).
- c) In the EU some languages are _____ (**important**) others. (superiority).
- d) Portuguese is spoken by a _____ (**large**) number of people _____ Arabic. (superiority).
- e) In some American states, Spanish is _____ (**widespread**) English. (equality).
- f) Native speakers are _____ (**tolerant**) towards foreign languages _____ non-native speakers. (inferiority).

3. Write sentences using the comparative of superiority:

1. English — Spanish (**widespread**)

2. London — Madrid (**cold**)

3. China — Portugal (**big**)

4. The USA — Sudan (**rich**)

5. Portuguese food — Japanese food (**good**)

6. New York City— Brussels (**cosmopolitan**)
