

LEARN

8.1 Comparative Adjectives

	Comparative Adjective	Than	
The blue car is	newer	than	the gray car.
	more expensive		

1. Use a comparative adjective + *than* to compare two people, places, or things.
You can use a comparative adjective + noun when the comparison is clear from context.

Lydia is **taller than** Alex.
Gorillas are **more intelligent than** cows.
The **bigger house** is mine.
The **more interesting shows** are on cable TV.

2. Add *-er* to the end of most one-syllable adjectives to form the comparative.* If the adjective ends in *-e*, add *-r*.

small → **smaller** low → **lower**
large → **larger** nice → **nicer**

3. Use *more* before most long adjectives (adjectives that have two or more syllables).

Jack is **more serious than** Nikki.
Do you think math is **more important than** music?

4. Some two-syllable adjectives are used with either *-er* or *more* to form the comparative.

quiet → **quieter** / **more** quiet
simple → **simpler** / **more** simple

5. Some adjectives have an irregular comparative form.

good → **better** bad → **worse**
far → **farther**, **further**

*See page A3 for more information on spelling rules for comparative adjectives.

REAL ENGLISH

Words such as *a little*, *a lot*, *much*, and *not much*, are often used to quantify comparative adjectives.

Tina is **a little** taller than Nick.

- 4 Complete each sentence with the correct comparative form of the adjective in parentheses. Add *than* when necessary.

1. New cars are much more quiet than / quieter than (quiet) old cars.
2. Do you think money is _____ (important) good health?
3. This coat is _____ (nice) that one.
4. My old laptop was a lot _____ (big) my new one.
5. Gas is so expensive! I want a _____ (efficient) car.
6. Many people think modern life is _____ (good) life in the past.
7. Communication is a lot _____ (easy) it was 50 years ago.
8. The pollution in my city is much _____ (bad) it used to be.
9. I prefer _____ (hot) temperatures. That's why I love summer.
10. My new school is a little _____ (far) my old one.

8.2 Comparative Adverbs

	Comparative Adverb	Than	
Gas prices are rising	faster	than	food prices.
	more rapidly		

1. Use a comparative adverb + <i>than</i> to compare two actions.	Mark works harder than Jeff. Carol drives more carefully than Peter.	
2. Add <i>-er</i> to the end of one-syllable adverbs to form the comparative.	fast → faster long → longer	hard → harder high → higher
3. Use <i>more</i> before adverbs that end with <i>-ly</i> .	quickly → more quickly frequently → more frequently	
4. Some adverbs have an irregular comparative form.	well → better badly → worse	far → farther, further

5 Complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adverbs in parentheses + *than*.

- My new oven works a lot better than (good) my old oven. It heats up much _____ (quick) my old oven, but it also burns food _____ (often) my old one!
- Now that he's a manager, Gerry works a lot _____ (hard) he used to. He also travels _____ (frequent) he did before, and his trips last _____ (long) they used to.
- People are creating garbage _____ (rapid) they used to. They are throwing away their old things because they can buy new goods _____ (easy) before. In the past, people treated their belongings _____ (careful) they do now.

6 Use the words in parentheses to complete each sentence. Use the comparative form of the adverb and the correct form of the verb.

- This computer works more efficiently than (work / efficiently) that computer.
- My new watch _____ (keep time / accurately) my old watch.
- My sister _____ (call / often) my brother.
- My phone _____ (ring / loudly) your phone.
- Tara _____ (shop / frequently) Lori.
- Brad _____ (type / quickly) Lynn.
- Kate _____ (sing / badly) Deb.
- Lila _____ (study / hard) Nora.

8.3 Completing Comparisons

1. You can use an object pronoun to complete a comparison. But in more formal speaking and writing, use a subject pronoun + an auxiliary verb.	Ed is six feet tall. Bob is taller than <u>him</u> . Object Pronoun Ed is six feet tall. Bob is taller than <u>he is</u> . Subject Pronoun + Aux. Verb
2. Use an auxiliary verb after <i>than</i> . Do not repeat the main verb.	✓ Ana runs faster than Pat does . ✗ Ana runs faster than Pat <u>runs</u> .
3. A possessive noun or possessive pronoun can be used after <i>than</i> .	My car was more expensive than Ellen's. My car was more expensive than hers.
4. If the comparison is clear, <i>than</i> and the second part of the comparison are not necessary.	Nowadays, smart phones are cheaper .
5. Be careful! Use <i>than</i> , not <i>then</i> , in a comparison.	✓ I work harder than I used to. ✗ I work harder <u>then</u> I used to.

7 Circle the correct word(s) to complete each sentence.

- My computer is more efficient **than your** / **than yours**.
- The white coat is warmer **then** / **than** the gray one.
- Ellen buys nicer clothes **than I do** / **than I am**.
- Cars are expensive, but houses are **more expensive** / **more expensive than**.
- Does your new stereo play music more loudly than your old one **was** / **did**?
- Harry's motorcycle is newer than **my** / **mine**.
- Cho's package arrived more quickly **than Kelly's did** / **than Kelly's was**.
- Dave is 27 years old. His sister is older **than he is** / **than he does**.

8 Complete each comparison using the information in parentheses. Do not repeat the same noun.

- Irina's car is bigger than mine (is) (my car).
- Tom takes better photos _____ (his father).
- Miguel's suit is more fashionable _____ (Chad's suit).
- You finished your shopping more quickly _____ (she).
- Jeff's kitchen is larger _____ (our kitchen).
- This printer prints more quickly _____ (your printer).
- My apartment is more comfortable _____ (their apartment).
- Alison studies harder _____ (her sister).

PRACTICE

- 9 Use the words in parentheses to complete the conversation with comparative adjectives or adverbs. Add *than* where necessary. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

Matt: My phone is working (1) worse than (badly) ever! And it's
(2) _____ (old) all the other phones I see, too.
I want a (3) _____ (modern) phone.

Lara: Take a look at my phone. It was (4) _____ (cheap) my
last phone, and I'm much (5) _____ (happy) with it. When I'm
traveling, I listen to music (6) _____ (often) I do when I'm at
home, so I wanted a phone with a (7) _____ (big) memory card.

Matt: Wow, it's much (8) _____ (nice) mine! The screen is a lot
(9) _____ (large), too. I want one like that!

Lara: Yeah, you need a big screen, because you watch videos on your phone
(10) _____ (frequently) I do.

- 10 Look at the charts comparing three laptop computers. Then complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adjectives and adverbs in parentheses.

Product Details	T400	XJ7	A-50
Screen size	15 inches	17 inches	14 inches
Weight	5.5 pounds	6 pounds	6.5 pounds
Amount of time on the market	18 months	3 months	9 months
Cost	\$565	\$650	\$499

Customer Ratings	T400	XJ7	A-50
Starts quickly	★ ★ ★	★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★
Runs reliably	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Operates quietly	★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Displays pictures well	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★ ★

- (large / small) The screen of the T400 is larger than the A-50's, but it is smaller than the XJ7's.
- (light / heavy) The XJ7 is _____ the A-50, but it is _____ the T400.
- (new / old) The A-50 is _____ the T400, but it is _____ the XJ7.
- (cheap / expensive) The T400 is _____ the XJ7, but it is _____ the A-50.
- (quickly / slowly) The T400 starts _____ the XJ7, but _____ the A-50.

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8.4 Comparisons with As . . . As

	As	Adjective	As			As	Adverb	As	
My car is	as	big comfortable	as	your car.	I drive	as	well carefully	as	you do.

1. Use **as** + adjective/adverb + **as** to compare two people, places, or things that are the same or equal in some way.

Adjective: Your car is **as old as** mine.

Adverb: I can run a mile **as fast as** you can.

2. To complete a comparison with **as . . . as**, you can use

- a noun (+ verb)
- a subject pronoun + verb or an auxiliary verb
- a possessive noun or possessive pronoun

- I dance as well as **my brother (dances)**.
- I dance as well as **he dances**.
I dance as well as **he does**.
- My computer is as old as **Rita's**.
My computer is as old as **hers**.

3. In informal speaking, object pronouns are often used to complete comparisons with **as . . . as**.

Formal: He's as tall as **I am**.

Informal: He's as tall as **me**.

4 Complete each sentence with **as . . . as** and the adjective or adverb in parentheses.

- Magazine ads are as effective as (effective) newspaper ads.
- Mark plays the guitar _____ (well) Nancy does.
- Online reviews are _____ (useful) asking friends about products.
- I read online reviews _____ (carefully) he does.
- The coat was just _____ (warm) it looked.
- Your sofa is just _____ (comfortable) Diane's.
- My computer is _____ (fast) the newer models.
- He shops online _____ (frequently) I do.

5 Use the words to make comparisons with **as . . . as**.

- Desktop computers / be / popular / laptops

Desktop computers are as popular as laptops (are).

- Microwave ovens / work / well / regular ovens

- Motorcycles / go / fast / cars

- This hotel room / be / big / my apartment

5. A smartphone / send messages / quickly / a laptop

6. My mother / speak English / well / my father

7. Gabi / go shopping / often / Linda

8. Trains / be / comfortable / airplanes

8.5 Comparison with **Less** and **Not As . . . As**

Less + Adjective or Adverb + Than				
	Less	Adjective/Adverb	Than	
This phone is	less	expensive	than	that one.
This old fan works	less	efficiently	than	the new fan.

Not As + Adjective or Adverb + As				
	Not As	Adjective/Adverb	As	
This phone is	not as	expensive good	as	that one.
This old fan does	not work as	efficiently well	as	the new fan.

1. The opposite of *more* is *less*. *Not as . . . as* and *less* have the same meaning.

My old car was **less efficient than** my new car.
My old car was **not as efficient as** my new car.

2. Use *not as . . . as* with one-syllable adjectives or adverbs.

My apartment is **not as big as** yours.
Tom doesn't run **as fast as** Steven.

3. Use *less . . . than* or *not as . . . as* with adjectives or adverbs that have two or more syllables. The meaning is the same.

My son visits **less frequently than** my daughter.
My son doesn't visit **as frequently as** my daughter.

4. **Remember:** If the comparison is clear, the second part of the comparison is not necessary.

The food at Joe's cafe isn't **as good as** the food at Chez Claude, but it's **less expensive**.
The food at Joe's cafe is **less expensive than** the food at Chez Claude, but it isn't **as good**.

See Chart 8.3 for more information completing comparisons.

6 Complete the conversations with *less* or *not as . . . as* and the words in parentheses. Do not use *not* unless it is included in the parentheses. Use *than* and the second *as* only where necessary.

1. Anita: The clothes in this store (1) aren't as nice as (not be / nice) they used to be. Look at this coat! It's much (2) _____ (fashionable) the coat I bought here last year.

Jackie: Well, that's true. It (3) _____ (not be / stylish), but it's also (4) _____ (expensive).

2. Chris: Check out this new coffee machine! It looks great! Ours (5) _____ (not be / fancy) this new one.

Mike: Well, it's definitely fancier than ours, but it (6) _____ (not be / efficient). It (7) _____ (not make coffee / quickly), and the coffee (8) _____ (not taste / good).

7 Rewrite each sentence with the word(s) in parentheses.

1. My watch is less attractive than yours. (not as . . . as)

My watch isn't as attractive as yours.

2. Sally's shoes aren't as fancy as Jill's. (less)

3. Adam exercises less frequently than he used to. (not as . . . as)

4. This supermarket isn't as expensive as the one across the street. (less)

5. The actor's new movie isn't as exciting as his last one. (less)

6. This gym is less convenient than the one near my house. (not as . . . as)

7. This review is less positive than that one. (not as . . . as)

8. The new tablet doesn't start up as quickly as the old one. (less)

PRACTICE

8 Complete the conversation with *less* or *(not) as . . . as* and the words in parentheses. Make the verbs negative only when *not* is given. Use *than* and the second *as* only where necessary.

Tina: Your new camera (1) isn't as big as (not be / big) your old one.

Dawn: I know. It (2) _____ (not be / heavy) my old X-2000, and it was (3) _____ (expensive), too.