

29 Comparative adjectives (1)



I love playing computer games. Modern machines are **smaller** than old ones and the games are more exciting.



1 Form

To make comparative adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	→	COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE
most short adjectives (1 syllable)	add -er	<i>small</i> → <i>smaller</i> , <i>young</i> → <i>younger</i> , <i>short</i> → <i>shorter</i> , <i>new</i> → <i>newer</i>
adjectives that end in -e	add -r	<i>late</i> → <i>later</i> , <i>nice</i> → <i>nicer</i> , <i>wide</i> → <i>wider</i>
adjectives that end in vowel + consonant, e.g. -ig, -at, -ot, -in	add another consonant + -er	<i>big</i> → <i>bigger</i> , <i>fat</i> → <i>fatter</i> , <i>hot</i> → <i>hotter</i> , <i>thin</i> → <i>thinner</i>
adjectives that end in -y	change y to i and add -er	<i>dry</i> → <i>drier</i> , <i>easy</i> → <i>easier</i> , <i>friendly</i> → <i>friendlier</i>

For most adjectives with two syllables we use *more* + adjective:

*This new computer is **more useful** than my old one.*

*My mobile is **more modern** than Emily's.*

For adjectives with three or four syllables we always use *more* + adjective:

*Modern computer games are **more exciting**. Gold is **more expensive** than silver.*

! We don't add -er to these adjectives.

~~✗ Mobile phones are usefuller than cameras.~~ ✓ Mobile phones are **more useful** than cameras.

! We don't use *more* with an adjective that is already comparative:

~~✗ Charlotte is more taller than Susie.~~ ✓ Charlotte is **taller** than Susie.

2 Use

We use comparative adjectives when we compare two people/things.

! We usually use *than* after comparative adjectives:

✓ *Modern machines are **smaller than** old ones.*

~~✗ Modern machines are smaller old ones.~~ ✗ *Modern machines are smaller of old ones.*

! We use *me, her, etc.*, not *I, she, etc.* after *than*:

Maria is taller than Anna. ✗ *Maria is taller than she.*

✓ *Maria is taller than her.*

But we can use *I, he, she, etc.* if we put *am/is/are* after the subject pronoun:

Maria is taller than she is.

Practice

Use the information to complete the sentences.

Use the comparative form of an adjective from the box.

0 **AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN JULY**
London 17°C
Madrid 25°C

1 **hotels4you.com**
Cost of a one night stay in a double room with shower:
THE REGAL HOTEL \$350.00
THE PARK HOTEL \$85.00

2 In a recent survey British people chose their favourite drink – 56% voted for coffee and 44% voted for tea.

3 **Airport to central London**
Heathrow 24km
Gatwick 45km

4 **LENGTH OF CAR**
Toyota Auris 4.22m
Toyota Prius 4.45m

5 **FANTASTIC PRICES FOR PAINTINGS!**
'Sunflowers' by Van Gogh sold for \$40 million and 'Nymphs' by Monet sold for \$37 million.

near expensive ~~warm~~ valuable long popular

- 0 Madrid *is warmer than* London
- 1 The Regal Hotel
- 2 In the UK, coffee
- 3 Heathrow Airport central London Gatwick Airport.
- 4 The Toyota Prius
- 5 *Sunflowers* by Van Gogh

Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 0 My brother is taller than *(I am)* / *me am*.
- 1 I'm eighteen but my best friend is younger than *me* / *I* – she's seventeen.
- 2 Do you like Lucy? I think Mariela is nicer than *she* / *her*.
- 3 I don't like horror films; I think action films are more interesting than *them* / *they*.
- 4 Our neighbours are richer than *us* / *we*.
- 5 My uncle is forty-five but my aunt is older than *he is* / *him is*. She's forty-seven.

Write the sentences again so they are true. Use a different comparative adjective.

- 0 It's warmer in London than Madrid.
It's colder in London than Madrid.
- 1 The mobile phone is a newer invention than the iPod.
.....
- 2 A car is faster than a jet plane.
.....
- 3 Five-star hotels are cheaper than four-star hotels.
.....
- 4 The Pacific Ocean is smaller than the Atlantic Ocean.
.....
- 5 It's wetter in the summer than the winter.
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