

30 Comparative adjectives (2)



Janie loves shopping. But she doesn't go to shops, she uses the Internet.
She thinks the service is **better** and the prices are **cheaper**.

1 Comparatives without *than*

We can use comparative adjectives without *than* when it is clear what or who we are talking about:

*The first exam was easy but the second was **more difficult**.* (more difficult than the first exam)

*She thinks the service is **better** and the prices are **cheaper**.* (better and cheaper than shops)

*Don't take the car. It's **quicker** to go by train.*

*I'm tall but my brother's **taller**.*

2 Irregular adjectives

Some comparative adjectives are irregular:

adjective	bad	good	far	well (= healthy)
comparative adjective	worse	better	further/farther	better

*My exam results are **worse** than yours.*

*The Chinese restaurant is nice, but I think the food is **better** in the Italian one.*

*The flight to Seattle is longer because it's **further**.*

*Jenny is **better** than she was before the operation.* (healthier)

3 *more* and *less*

The opposite of *more* is *less*. We can use *less* with adjectives with two or more syllables:

*Gold is **more expensive** than silver.* (= Silver is **less expensive** than gold.)

*Books are **less exciting** than films.*

⚠ We don't use *less* with adjectives with only one syllable (e.g. *old*, *tall*, *nice*, *young*):

✗ *My mother is **less old** than my father.*

✓ *My mother is **younger** than my father.*

We can also use *not as* + adjective + *as* (e.g. *not as old as*) (► Unit 32.1).

⚠ We don't use *more* or *less* with an adjective that is already a comparative adjective:

✗ *People in Argentina are **more friendlier** than people here.*

✓ *People in Argentina are **friendlier** than people here.*

⚠ We don't use *more* with irregular adjectives:

✗ *I think television is **more good** than radio.*

✓ *I think television is **better** than radio.*

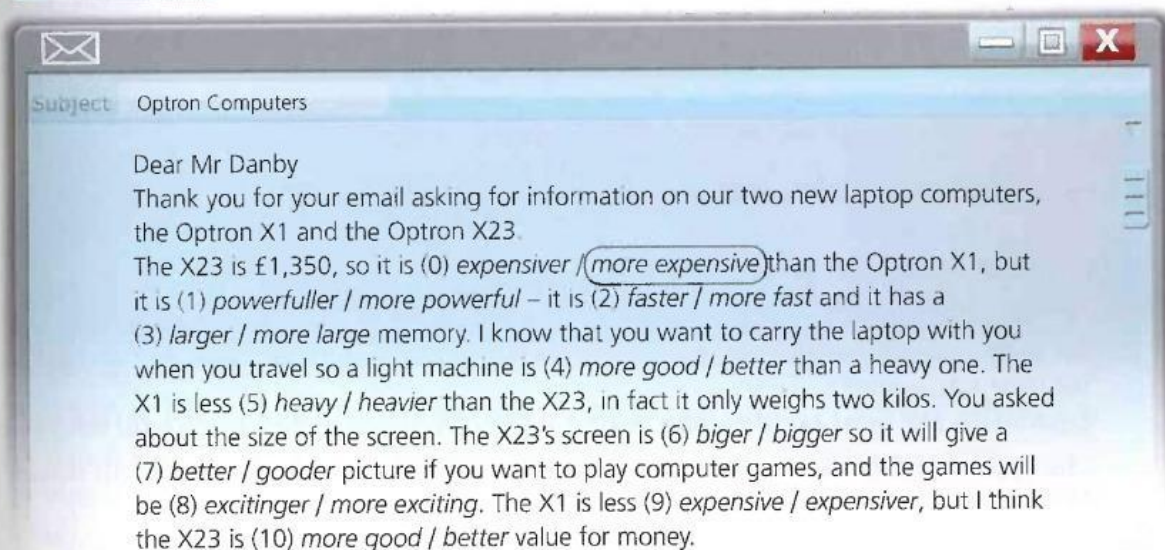
Practice

1 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with the correct words and phrases from the box.

better easier further more expensive nicer worse

- A Where shall we eat tonight? The Indian restaurant?
 B No, I think the Chinese place is (0) *better*.
 A I'm not sure. It's (1) and I haven't got much money.
 B Well, we can try the Italian place. It isn't expensive, and it's very nice.
 A Yes, I know it's nice, but the Indian restaurant is (2)
 B But it's not very close to us. It's (3) than the Italian restaurant – on the other side of town. What about the burger place near the library?
 A Oh, no. That place is terrible. It's (4) than the others in every way!
 B It's really difficult to decide! I know – let's stay at home and phone for a pizza.
 A Great. That's (5) than going out. We can eat in front of the TV and watch a DVD.

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the email.



Subject: Optron Computers

Dear Mr Danby

Thank you for your email asking for information on our two new laptop computers, the Optron X1 and the Optron X23.

The X23 is £1,350, so it is (0) *expensiver* / *more expensive* than the Optron X1, but it is (1) *powerfuller* / *more powerful* – it is (2) *faster* / *more fast* and it has a (3) *larger* / *more large* memory. I know that you want to carry the laptop with you when you travel so a light machine is (4) *more good* / *better* than a heavy one. The X1 is less (5) *heavy* / *heavier* than the X23, in fact it only weighs two kilos. You asked about the size of the screen. The X23's screen is (6) *biger* / *bigger* so it will give a (7) *better* / *gooder* picture if you want to play computer games, and the games will be (8) *excitinger* / *more exciting*. The X1 is less (9) *expensive* / *expensiver*, but I think the X23 is (10) *more good* / *better* value for money.

3 Find the grammar mistakes in each sentence and correct them.

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|---|-------------------------|
| 0 New York is bigger of Rome. | <i>than</i> |
| 1 The River Nile is more long than the River Thames. | |
| 2 Meat is less healthier than vegetables. | |
| 3 Which is more worse – cold weather or rainy weather? | |
| 4 Leather shoes are more good than plastic shoes. | |
| 5 It's more warmer in Spain than in England. | |
| 6 Life in the countryside is less excitinger than life in the city. | |
| 7 People say TV programmes are badder than they used to be. | |
| 8 I think Sally is more nicer than her husband. | |
| 9 Which is more far from London – Moscow or New York? | |
| 10 Harry took some medicine so he feels weller now. | |