Comparatives and Superlatives

Read each explanation, then complete the sentences.

1 Comparative forms of short adjectives

Use adjective + -er + than. Add -r after -e; double the last consonant in big; change consonant + y to -ier. Some two-syllable adjectives allow both forms: cleverer / more clever.

Example: My room is bigger than yours.

Complete with the comparative form of the adjective.

1. This road is _____ than the old road. (wide)
2. My suitcase is _____ than yours. (heavy)
3. Today is _____ than yesterday. (hot)
4. Our new house is _____ than our old one. (small)
5. The library is _____ than the cafe. (quiet)

2 More and less with adjectives

Use more / less + adjective + than with most two-syllable adjectives and adjectives with three or more syllables. More increases the quality; less reduces it.

Example: This game is less exciting than the final.

Complete using more or less and the adjective in brackets. Follow the meaning clue.

1. The train costs more, so it is _____ than the bus. (expensive)
2. I understand this task better. It is _____ than the last one. (confusing)
3. The final kept us on the edge of our seats. It was _____ than the first match. (exciting)
4. She worries less now. She is _____ than before. (anxious)
5. The new chair feels nicer. It is _____ than the old one. (comfortable)

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3 Irregular comparisons

Learn these forms: good - better - best; bad - worse - worst. Use better / worse to compare; use the best / the worst for the highest or lowest quality in a group.

Example: This result is better than my last one.

Complete with better, worse, best or worst.

1. My score rose from 60% to 80%. It is _____ than before.
2. That was the _____ meal of all: the food was burnt and cold.
3. This is the _____ book I have ever read. I loved every page.
4. His cough is _____ than yesterday; he feels much more ill.
5. This route is _____ than the other one because it saves twenty minutes.

4 Big and small differences

Use ***much / a lot / far*** before a comparative for a big difference. Use ***a bit / slightly*** for a small difference. These also work before ***less + adjective.***

Example: This test is much easier. It is slightly less demanding.

Complete the comparison with the adjective. Keep the modifier already given.

1. At 5 kg, this bag is much _____ than the 20 kg bag. (light)
2. At 21 C, today is slightly _____ than yesterday at 20 C. (warm)
3. This puzzle is far _____ than the last one. (complicated)
4. The new chair is a bit _____ than this one. (comfortable)
5. With only two steps, this recipe is a lot less _____ than the ten-step recipe. (complicated)

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5 Continuing change

Repeat a comparative to show gradual change: colder and colder.
With ***longer adjectives***, use ***more and more / less and less*** + adjective. Do not add than.

Example: The instructions are becoming more and more confusing.

Complete the repeated comparison. Follow the direction shown.

1. As winter approaches, the days get _____. (short)
2. The city is becoming _____ as prices rise. (expensive)
3. After each success, she feels _____. (confident)
4. With practice, the task becomes _____. (difficult)
5. The crowd grew _____ as the match continued. (loud)

6 Linked changes

Use the + comparative ..., the + comparative ... to show that one change leads to another. Each part needs the. More and less can also compare amounts or frequency.

Example: The more you practise, the more confident you feel.

Complete each linked comparison using the word in brackets.

1. The longer we wait, the _____ we get. (hungry)
2. The more you read, the _____ your vocabulary becomes. (rich)
3. The less you rush, the _____ you work. (carefully)
4. The harder you train, the _____ you become. (strong)
5. The more I understand, the _____ confused I feel. (less / more)

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