

Comparison

Regular forms

Adjectives	Adjective	Comparative
1. Of one syllable, add -(e)r to form their comparative form.	small hot safe	smaller (than) hotter (than) safer (than)
2. Of two syllables ending in <u>-ly</u> , <u>-y</u> , <u>-w</u> , also add -er .	friendly busy shallow	friendlier (than) busier (than) shallower (than)
3. Of two or more syllables, take more .	serious amazing	more serious (than) more amazing (than)

Usage

- We use the comparative to compare one person/ thing with another.
e.g. Mary is prettier than Ann.
This car is more expensive than the others.
- We often use than after a comparative.
e.g. She is shorter than you.
This problem is more complicated than that one.
- Certain adjectives form their comparative in both ways, either by adding **-er** to the adjectives or by taking **more**. Some of these are: clever, common, cruel, friendly, gentle, narrow, pleasant, polite, shallow, simple, stupid, quiet.
e.g. simple - simpler
simple - **more** simple

Regular forms

Adverbs	Adverb	Comparative
1. Adverbs having the same forms as their adjectives add -er .	long fast early	longer (than) faster (than) earlier (than)
2. Two syllables or compound adverbs (adjectives+-ly, e.g. careful-carefully) take more .	often slowly quickly	more often (than) more slowly (than) more quickly (than)

Irregular forms

Adjectives/Adverbs	Comparative
good/ well	better
bad/badly	worse
much/ many/ a lot of	more

little	less
few	fewer
far	farther/further

Usage

1. **Well** is the adverb of **good**.
e.g. He is a **good** cook. He cooks **well**.
2. **further (adj) = more**
e.g. For **further** information, contact Mr White.
further/farther (adv) = longer (in distance)
e.g. He walked **further/farther than** I did.
3. **very + adjective**
e.g. It is **very** hot weather.
4. **even/much/far/a bit + comparative**
e.g. My sister behaved **even worse** than before.
Susan is **much more patient** with children than Lily is.
5. **any + comparative** (used in negatives & questions)
e.g. This article was **not any better than** the previous one.

Types of Comparison

Examples

1. as ... (adj/adv) ... as not so/as as ... (adj/adv) ... as such a(n)/so ... as	She speaks as calmly as usual. It is not so/as hot as it was yesterday. This is not such an exciting film as the last one.
2. twice/three times /half/ etc as ... (adj/adv) ... as	Their house is three times as big as ours. His watch cost half as much as mine.
3. the same as	Your violin is the same as the one I've bought.
4. less ... (adj/adv) ... than	The red sofa is less expensive than the blue one.
5. the + comparative ... , the + comparative	The earlier you start, the sooner you'll finish.
6. comparative + and + comparative	Their life is getting better and better .

Sentence transformation

- 1a. He is **taller than** his sister.
b. His sister is **not as tall as** he is/him.
- 2a. If you **work more**, you will **earn more**.
b. **The more** you work, **the more** you will earn.
- 3a. She is **quicker than** any other runner.
b. No other runner is **as quick as** she is/her.
- 4a. He is **a terrible driver**.
b. He **drives terribly**.
- 5a. Jack has got **the same number** of books **as** Peter.
b. Peter has got **as many books as** Jack.

- 6a. She hasn't made as many mistakes as last time.
 b. She has made fewer mistakes than last time.

Exercise A

Complete the comparative form of the following adjectives/ adverbs.

Adjective/ Adverb	Comparative
e.g. high	higher
1. loud	
2. large	
3. thin	
4. heavy	
5. quiet	
6. quietly	
7. intelligently	
8. dependent	
9. good/well	
10. difficult	

Exercise B

Choose the correct option for each of the following sentences.

e.g. He worked more efficiently than I did. (efficiently, more efficiently, most efficiently)

- Hawaii is _____ from Hong Kong than Japan. (far, farther)
- This ring is too _____ for me. (small, smaller)
- It is _____ to ask for help than solve the problem by yourself. (easy, easier)
- Grace's work is _____, but Joan's is _____. (good, better)
- August is _____ than any other month. (hot, hotter)
- Prevention is _____ than cure. (good, better, best)
- This pair of glasses is as _____ as that pair. (fashionable, more fashionable)

Exercise C

Fill in each blank with the correct form – adjective/ adverb or comparative.

- Iron is _____ than other metals. (useful)
- My English teacher is as _____ as Andy Lau. (handsome)
- His Chinese is getting _____ and _____. (bad)
- The _____ he gets, the _____ he becomes. (old, wise)
- Ann does not swim so _____ as her coach claims. (quickly)
- Which is _____, grammar or vocabulary? (important)
- Staying at home is _____ than going on holiday abroad. (comfortable)
- The _____ money you spend, the _____ you can save. (little, much)
- This mini-bus driver is much _____ than any other driver. (kind)

