

Comparison

Regular forms

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

Usage

1. 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.

2. We often use **than** after a comparative.

e.g. She is shorter than you.

This problem is more complicated than that one.

3. 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 <u>-er</u> .	long fast early	longer (than) faster (than) earlier (than)
2. Two syllables or compound adverbs (adjectives+ -ly , e.g. careful-carefully) take <u>more</u> .	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	She speaks <u>as calmly as</u> usual.
not so/as as ... (adj/adv) ... as	It is <u>not so/as hot as</u> it was yesterday.
such a(n)/so ... as	This is <u>not such an exciting film as</u> the last one.
2. twice/three times /half/ etc as ...	Their house is <u>three times as big as</u> ours.
(adj/adv) ... as	His watch cost <u>half as much as</u> mine.
3. the same as	Your violin is <u>the same as</u> the one I've bought.
4. less ... (adj/adv) ... than	The red sofa is <u>less expensive than</u> the blue one.
5. the + comparative ... , the + comparative	<u>The earlier</u> you start, <u>the sooner</u> you'll finish.
6. comparative + and + comparative	Their life is getting <u>better and better</u> .

Sentence transformation

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

1. Hawaii is _____ from Hong Kong than Japan. (far, farther)
2. This ring is too _____ for me. (small, smaller)
3. It is _____ to ask for help than solve the problem by yourself. (easy, easier)
4. Grace's work is _____, but Joan's is _____. (good, better)
5. August is _____ than any other month. (hot, hotter)
6. Prevention is _____ than cure. (good, better, best)
7. 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.

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

