

# 29 Comparative adjectives (1)



## 1 Form

To make comparative adjectives:

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

~~*X 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:

~~*X 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.*

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



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

~~*Maria is taller than Anna.*~~ X *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 'Nympheas' 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.