

## old/older expensive / more expensive

A



Older / heavier / more expensive are *comparative* forms.

The comparative is **-er** (**older**) or **more** ... (**more expensive**).

B

older/heavier etc.

Short words (1 syllable) → **-er**:

old → <b>older</b>	slow → <b>slower</b>	cheap → <b>cheaper</b>
nice → <b>nicer</b>	late → <b>later</b>	big → <b>bigger</b>

Spelling (→ Appendix 5): big → bigger hot → hotter thin → thinner

Words ending in **-y** → **-ier**:

easy → **easier** heavy → **heavier** early → **earlier**

- Rome is **old**, but Athens is **older**. (*not more old*)
- Is it **cheaper** to go by car or by train? (*not more cheap*)
- Helen wants a **bigger** car.
- This coat is OK, but I think the other one is **nicer**.
- Don't take the bus. It's **easier** to take a taxi. (*not more easy*)

far → **further**:

- A: How far is it to the station? A mile?
- B: No, it's **further**. About two miles.

C

**more** ...

Long words (2/3/4 syllables) → **more** ...:

careful → <b>more careful</b>	polite → <b>more polite</b>
expensive → <b>more expensive</b>	interesting → <b>more interesting</b>

- You must be **more careful**.
- I don't like my job. I want to do something **more interesting**.
- Is it **more expensive** to go by car or by train?

D

**good/well** → **better** **bad** → **worse**

- The weather wasn't very **good** yesterday, but it's **better** today.
- 'Do you feel **better** today?' 'No, I feel **worse**.'
- Which is **worse** – a headache or a toothache?

# Exercises

87.1 Look at the pictures and write the comparative (**older** / **more interesting** etc.).



87.2 Write the comparative.

1 old	older	6 good
2 strong		7 large
3 happy		8 serious
4 modern		9 pretty
5 important		10 crowded

87.3 Write the opposite.

1 younger	older	4 better
2 colder		5 nearer
3 cheaper		6 easier

87.4 Complete the sentences. Use a comparative.

- 1 Helen's car isn't very big. She wants a **bigger** one.
- 2 My job isn't very interesting. I want to do something **more interesting**.
- 3 You're not very tall. Your brother is ...
- 4 David doesn't work very hard. I work ...
- 5 My chair isn't very comfortable. Yours is ...
- 6 Your idea isn't very good. My idea is ...
- 7 These flowers aren't very nice. The blue ones are ...
- 8 My bag isn't very heavy. Your bag is ...
- 9 I'm not very interested in art. I'm ... in history.
- 10 It isn't very warm today. It was ... yesterday.
- 11 These tomatoes don't taste very good. The other ones tasted ...
- 12 Britain isn't very big. France is ...
- 13 London isn't very beautiful. Paris is ...
- 14 This knife isn't very sharp. Have you got a ... one?
- 15 People today aren't very polite. In the past they were ...
- 16 The weather isn't too bad today. Often it is much ...