

## 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 → **older**      slow → **slower**      cheap → **cheaper**  
nice → **nicer**      late → **later**      big → **bigger**

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 → **more careful**      polite → **more polite**  
expensive → **more expensive**      interesting → **more interesting**

- ☐ 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.).

<p>① heavy</p>  <p>heavier</p>	<p>② big</p> 	<p>③ slow</p>  <p>tortoise</p> <p>snail</p>
<p>④ expensive</p> 	<p>⑤ high</p>  <p>4000 m</p> <p>5000 m</p>	<p>⑥ dangerous</p>  <p>SLOW</p>

**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.

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