

Comparative Adjectives



Do you know how to use comparative adjectives like older, better and more interesting? Test what you know with interactive exercises and read the explanation to help you.

Look at these examples to see how we use comparative adjectives.

The city is more interesting than the countryside.

This house is older than my house.

She's better at cooking now than before.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Grammar Test 01

1. Choose the correct words.

- a. Their car is nicer _____ ours.
than that
- b. I like to go to work early because the bus is _____ after 8.
crowded more crowded
- c. Flying is _____ than driving.
more safer safer

- d. He's _____ at football than me.
better gooder
- e. We're going to move to the city when our children are _____.
bigger more big
- f. She thinks her job is _____ because she works with difficult people.
more stressful more stressfuller
- g. This town is _____ than my hometown. There's a lot of traffic.
more noisier noisier
- h. Her mark in the exam was _____ than mine.
badder worse

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

We use comparative adjectives to compare two things or show change. The comparative form depends on the number of syllables in the adjective.

Adjectives with one syllable

To make comparative forms with one-syllable adjectives, we usually add **-er**:

old → older
clean → cleaner
slow → slower

If an adjective ends in **-e**, we add **-r**:

safe → safer
nice → nicer

If an adjective ends in a **vowel and a consonant**, we usually **double the consonant**:

big → bigger
hot → hotter

Adjectives with two or more syllables

If a two-syllable adjective ends in a **consonant and -y**, we change **-y to -i** and add **-er**:

noisy → noisier
happy → happier
easy → easier

We use **more** to make comparative forms for most other two-syllable adjectives and for **all adjectives with three or more syllables**:

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crowded → **more** crowded
stressful → **more** stressful
dangerous → **more** dangerous

Exception: You can either add **-er/-r** or use **more** with *some two-syllable adjectives*, such as **common, cruel, gentle, handsome, likely, narrow, pleasant, polite, simple** and **stupid**.

I think life in the countryside is **simpler than** in the city.
It's **more simple** to live in the city because everything you need is there.

Irregular adjectives

The adjectives **good, bad** and **far** have irregular comparative forms:

good → **better**
bad → **worse**
far → **further/farther**

Than

When we want to say **which person or thing we are comparing with**, we can **use than**:

Their house is **cleaner than** ours.
Traffic is **slower** in the city **than** in the countryside.
After the race I was **more tired than** Anne.

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

Grammar Test 02

2. Choose the correct words.

- a. Ariel moved to the countryside because he wanted a _____ life.
peacefuller more peaceful
- b. She is _____ in the city because she has a lot of friends there.
more happy happier
- c. I feel _____ if I go for a walk in the forest with my dog.
more relaxed relaxeder
- d. It's _____ in the mountains than at the seaside.
colder more cold
- e. He says that famous people are _____ than his family, but I think he's wrong!
interestinger more interesting
- f. The vegetables from my garden are _____ than the ones in the supermarket.
tastier more tastier
- g. The noise from the traffic is _____ if you live near a busy road.
badder worse
- h. Thank you for cleaning the kitchen! It's much _____ now.
cleaner more cleaner

You can go further

We use **comparative adjectives** to *show change* or *make comparisons*:

This car is certainly **better**, but it's much **more expensive**.
I'm feeling **happier** now.
We need a **bigger** garden.

We use **than** when we want to **compare one thing with another**:

She is two years **older than** me.
New York is much **bigger than** Boston.
He is a **better** player **than** Ronaldo.
France is a **bigger** country **than** Britain.

When we want to describe how something or someone changes we can use **two comparatives with and**:

The balloon got **bigger and bigger**.
Everything is getting **more and more expensive**.
Grandfather is looking **older and older**.

We often use **the with comparative adjectives** to show that one thing depends on another:

The faster you drive, **the more dangerous** it is.
(= When you drive faster, it is more dangerous.)

The higher they climbed, **the colder** it got.
(= When they climbed higher, it got colder.)

Grammar Test 03

3. Match the phrases to make ten sentences.

the more frightened I became.

I prefer more modern music.

more dangerous than flying.

smaller and smaller.

we need a larger table.

more and more interesting.

your English will get better.

the more tax I have to pay.

older than me.

bigger than Britain's.

- If you practise more,
- We've invited six friends for dinner, so
- The Beatles are not bad, but

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- d. My brother is ten years
 - e. Brazil's economy is now
 - f. Travelling by train is
 - g. Computers these days are getting
 - h. As the story went on, it became
 - i. The harder I work,
 - j. The higher the plane went,
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Challenge

4. Can you remember the sentences from the last activity? Write the correct words.

- 1. If you practise more, your English will get _____.
- 2. We've invited six friends for dinner, so we need a I _____ table.
- 3. The Beatles are not bad, but I prefer _____ music.
- 4. My brother is ten years _____ me.
- 5. Brazil's economy is now _____ Britain's.
- 6. Travelling by train is _____ flying.
- 7. Computers these days are getting _____.
- 8. As the story went on, it became _____.
- 9. The _____ I work, the _____ tax I have to pay.
- 10. The _____ the boat went, the _____ I became.