

Comparison

I can make comparisons.

- SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Do you know what a shooting star is? Compare your ideas.
- Read part 1 of the text. Check your ideas from exercise 1.
- Complete the table with comparative adjectives from part 1 of the text.

Short adjective	Comparative	Rule
small	1	+ -er
large	2	+ -r
early	3	-y → -ier
big	4	double consonant + -er
Long adjective	Comparative	Rule
powerful	5	more + adjective
Irregular adjective	Comparative	
far	6	(no rules)
good	better	
bad	worse	

Read the **Learn this!** box. Then find examples of each rule (a–d) in part 1 of the text.

LEARN THIS! Comparative forms

- We use *than* to make comparisons.
Greece is hotter than the UK.
- We use *not as ... as* to make negative comparisons.
It isn't as warm as yesterday.
- We use *as ... as* to say two things are equal.
Yesterday, London was as hot as Athens.
- We use *far* or *much* to make a comparison stronger.
Libya is far / much hotter than Canada.

Read the **Look out!** box. Complete part 2 of the text with the comparative form of the words in brackets.

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LOOK OUT! little – less

Some quantifiers also have comparative forms.
few – fewer much / many – more

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- My brothers often fight, but Tom is *much stronger than* Nathan (Tom / much / strong / Nathan) so he usually wins.
- Delhi is bigger than Mexico City but _____ (it / not as / large) Tokyo.
- The Chelyabinsk explosion _____ (much / small) than the Tunguska Event.
- Occasionally, hail stones can _____ (be / big / as) tennis balls!
- A hurricane _____ (much / powerful) an ordinary storm.

Part 1

On a clear night, you can often see meteors – space rocks – as they fall towards the Earth. Each rock is smaller than an apple, but they look as bright as stars in the night sky, so people call them 'shooting stars'. Larger meteors are much rarer, but their effects are far more spectacular. In 2013, a meteor exploded in the sky above the city of Chelyabinsk in Russia. The explosion was more powerful than the 1945 Hiroshima atomic bomb, but its effect was not as devastating as the bomb because the meteor exploded much further from the ground. Scientists compared the Chelyabinsk meteor to an earlier – and far bigger – explosion: the Tunguska Event.

Part 2

The Tunguska Event of 1908 was ¹ _____ (far) from a city so ² _____ (few) people saw it, but it was much ³ _____ (powerful) than the one in Chelyabinsk. It destroyed more than 80 million trees in the Siberian forest, so it's lucky it was not ⁴ _____ (close) to a town or city. The night sky became ⁵ _____ (bright) than normal for a few days, and people a hundred kilometres away could read a newspaper outdoors even at midnight. Most scientists believe it was a meteor explosion, but there are some ⁶ _____ (unusual) theories too. Perhaps it was a UFO!

- Write questions beginning *Which ... ?* Use the comparative form of the adjectives.

- dangerous / a blizzard / a thunderstorm / ?
Which is more dangerous, a blizzard or a thunderstorm?
- beautiful / snowflake / rainbow / ?
- holiday venue / good / the mountains / the beach / ?
- for you personally / temperature / bad / -5°C / 35°C / ?
- type of weather / frightening / hail / lightning / ?
- country / rainy / Spain / England / ?
- in your country / month / hot / July / August / ?

- SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions in exercise 7. Do you agree with your partner?

Which is more dangerous, a blizzard or a thunderstorm?

I think a blizzard is more dangerous. What about you?

I agree. / I don't agree. I think a thunderstorm is more dangerous.

Complete the table with the comparative forms.

Adjective	Comparative
Short adjectives	
tall	1
large	2
hot	3
early	4
Long adjectives	
powerful	5
spectacular	6
Irregular adjectives	
good	7
bad	8
far	9
Quantifiers	
few	10
much / many	11
little	12

Complete the fact file. Use the comparative form of the words in brackets.

FACT FILE:

COMETS AND ASTEROIDS



asteroid



comet

- Comets are made of ice and pieces of rock. Asteroids are made of rock and metal, and are ¹_____ (heavy).
- Most comets are much ²_____ (big) than most asteroids.
- You can find asteroids ³_____ (close) to the sun than comets. If comets get too close to the sun, they melt. So you can only find comets much ⁴_____ (far) from the sun, where it is ⁵_____ (cold) and ice doesn't melt.
- Comets are ⁶_____ (bright) than asteroids because they have long, white tails.
- Comets are ⁷_____ (rare) than asteroids. There are hundreds of millions of asteroids in our solar system, but far ⁸_____ (few) comets – only about 4,000. For this reason, asteroids are ⁹_____ (dangerous), as one of them is ¹⁰_____ (likely) to hit the Earth.

3 Compare the weather in the two cities. Write sentences with *as ... as* and *not as ... as*.

London	Edinburgh
	
15°C	15°C
	

- 1 Edinburgh isn't as sunny as London. (sunny)
- 2 _____ (warm)
- 3 _____ (cloudy)
- 4 _____ (bright)
- 5 _____ (wet)
- 6 _____ (windy)
- 7 _____ (dry)

4 Complete the sentences with *as*, *more*, *much* or *than*.

- 1 Mist isn't as thick _____ fog.
- 2 The weather today is _____ wetter _____ yesterday.
- 3 'Is a hurricane _____ powerful than a thunderstorm?' 'Yes, it's _____ stronger.'
- 4 The moon isn't _____ bright _____ the sun.
- 5 Are hurricanes more dangerous _____ tornadoes?
- 6 'I think maths is much _____ interesting _____ geography.'
'Do you? I don't think it's _____ interesting as geography, but it's _____ more useful.'