

Comparative adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (*larger, smaller, faster, higher*).



There are two ways to make or to "form" a comparative adjective:

- short adjectives: add "-er"
- long adjectives: use "more"

Short adjectives: add -er	examples
1-syllable adjectives	old, fast
2-syllable adjectives ending in -y	happy, easy
RULE: add "-er"	old → older
Variation: if the adjective ends in -e, just add -r	late → later
Variation: if the adjective ends in consonant, vowel, consonant, double the last consonant	big → bigger
Variation: if the adjective ends in -y, change the y to i	happy → happier

Long adjectives: use more	examples
2-syllable adjectives not ending in -y	modern, pleasant
all adjectives of 3 or more syllables	expensive, intellectual
RULE: use "more"	modern → more modern expensive → more expensive

With some 2-syllable adjectives, we can use "-er" OR "more":

quiet → quieter/more quiet

clever → cleverer/more clever

narrow → narrower/more narrow

simple → simpler/more simple

Exception: The following adjectives have irregular forms:

good → better

well (healthy) → better

bad → worse

far → farther/further

1. Comparative adjectives are used when comparing _____ things, people or groups.

- a) two b) two or more c) three or more

2. Which is the comparative form? "I'm strong, but my brother is _____."

- a) strongest b) stronger c) as strong

3. A long adjective of 3 or more syllables is changed into a comparative adjective by

- a) adding -er to it b) adding -est to it c) putting "more" before it

5. Which is **not** a comparative form of the adjective "clever"?

- a) cleverer b) cleverer c) more clever

10. Which is comparative? "Whose English is _____? Mine or his?"

- a) good b) better c) best