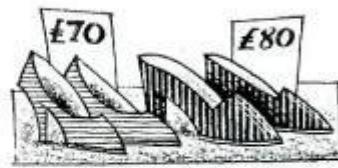


A



old                    **older**                    heavy                    **heavier**                    expensive                    **more expensive**

**Older / heavier / more expensive** are *comparative forms*.  
The comparative is **-er** (**older**) or **more** (**more expensive**)

B

-er (older/heavier etc.)

Short words (1 syllable)  $\Rightarrow$  -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 write a letter. It's **easier** to phone. (*not* 'more easy')

far → further:

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

6

more ...

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

careful → **more** careful  
expensive → **more** expensive

- 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?

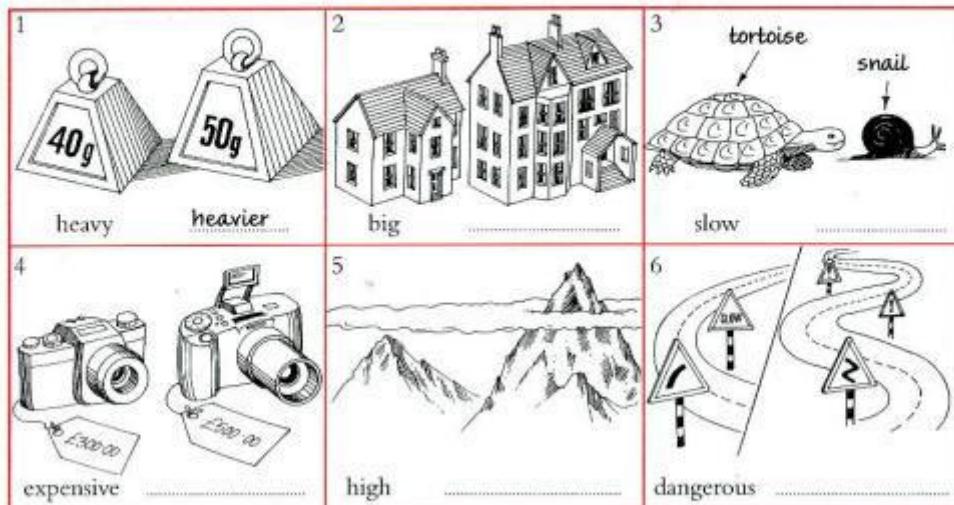
D

**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

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



86.2 Write the comparative.

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

86.3 Write the opposite.

1 younger <b>older</b>	4 better .....
2 colder .....	5 nearer .....
3 cheaper .....	6 easier .....

86.4 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 plan isn't very good. My plan 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 .....
- 10 It isn't very warm today. It was .....
- 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 .....
- 15 People today aren't very polite. In the past they were .....