

Comparative 1 (**cheaper, more expensive** etc.)

A

Look at these examples:

How shall we travel? Shall we drive or go by train?

Let's drive. It's **cheaper**.Don't go by train. It's **more expensive**.**Cheaper** and **more expensive** are *comparative* forms.After comparatives you can use **than** (see Unit 107):

- ☐ It's **cheaper** to drive **than** go by train.
- ☐ Going by train is **more expensive than** driving.



B

The comparative form is **-er** or **more** ...We use **-er** for short words (one syllable):

cheap → cheaper **fast** → faster
large → larger **thin** → thinner

We also use **-er** for two-syllable words that end in **-y** (**-y** → **-ier**):

lucky → luckier **early** → earlier
easy → easier **pretty** → prettier

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

We use **more** ... for longer words (two syllables or more):

more serious **more expensive**
more often **more comfortable**

We also use **more** ... for adverbs that end in **-ly**:

more slowly **more seriously**
more easily **more quietly**

Compare these examples:

- ☐ You're **older** than me.
- ☐ The exam was quite easy – **easier** than I expected.
- ☐ Can you walk a bit **faster**?
- ☐ I'd like to have a **bigger** car.
- ☐ Last night I went to bed **earlier** than usual.

- ☐ You're **more patient** than me.
- ☐ The exam was quite difficult – **more difficult** than I expected.
- ☐ Can you walk a bit **more slowly**?
- ☐ I'd like to have a **more reliable** car.
- ☐ I don't play tennis much these days. I used to play **more often**.

We use both **-er** or **more** ... with some two-syllable adjectives, especially:

- clever** **narrow** **quiet** **shallow** **simple**
☐ It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere **quieter**? or ... somewhere **more quiet**?

C

A few adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms:

good/well → **better**

- ☐ The garden looks **better** since you tidied it up.
- ☐ I know him well – probably **better** than anybody else knows him.

bad/badly → **worse**

- ☐ 'How's your headache? Better?' 'No, it's **worse**.'
- ☐ He did very badly in the exam – **worse** than expected.

far → **further** (or **farther**)

- ☐ It's a long walk from here to the park – **further** than I thought. (or **farther** than)

Note that **further** (*but not farther*) also means 'more' or 'additional':

- ☐ Let me know if you hear any **further** news. (= any more news)

105.1 Complete the sentences using a comparative form (older / more important etc.).

- 1 This restaurant is very expensive. Let's go somewhere cheaper.
- 2 This coffee is very weak. I like it
- 3 The town was surprisingly big. I expected it to be
- 4 The hotel was surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be
- 5 The weather is too cold here. I'd like to live somewhere
- 6 Sometimes my job is a bit boring. I'd like to do something
- 7 It's a shame you live so far away. I wish you lived
- 8 It was quite easy to find a place to live. I thought it would be
- 9 Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do
- 10 Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be
- 11 You hardly ever call me. Why don't you call me?
- 12 You're too near the camera. Can you move a bit away?

105.2 Complete the sentences. Use the comparative forms of the words in the box. Use **than where necessary.**

big early high important interested peaceful reliable serious slowly thin

- 1 I was feeling tired last night, so I went to bed earlier than usual.
- 2 I'd like to have a more reliable car. The one I have keeps breaking down.
- 3 Unfortunately the problem was we thought at first.
- 4 You look Have you lost weight?
- 5 We don't have enough space here. We need a apartment.
- 6 James doesn't study very hard. He's in having a good time.
- 7 Health and happiness are money.
- 8 I like living in the country. It's living in a town.
- 9 I'm sorry I don't understand. Can you speak, please?
- 10 In some parts of the country, prices are in others.

105.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

than more worse quietly longer better careful frequent

- 1 Getting a visa was complicated. It took longer than I expected.
- 2 Sorry about my mistake. I'll try and be more in future.
- 3 Your English has improved. It's than it was.
- 4 You can travel by bus or by train. The buses are more than the trains.
- 5 You can't always have things immediately. You have to be patient.
- 6 I'm a pessimist. I always think things are going to get
- 7 We were busier usual in the office today. It's not usually so busy.
- 8 You're talking very loudly. Can you speak more?

105.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use a comparative form (-er or more ...).

- 1 Yesterday the temperature was six degrees. Today it's only three degrees.
It's colder today than it was yesterday.
- 2 Dan and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dan stopped after eight kilometres.
I ran Dan.
- 3 The journey takes four hours by car and five hours by train.
The journey takes train car.
- 4 I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.
My friends I expected.
- 5 There is always a lot of traffic here, but today the traffic is really bad.
The traffic today usual.