# 94 Comparative adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare two things. They can either be formed by adding the suffix "-er," or by putting "more" or "less" before the adjective.

#### See also:

Singular and plural nouns **69** Adjectives **92** 

# 94.1 COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

For most adjectives with one or two syllables, "-er" is added to make the comparative.

# Ahmed is tall. Ahmed is taller than Jonathan.

"-er" is added to make a the comparative.

"Than" is used to introduce the thing that the subject is being compared to.

#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**



Dean is stronger than Carlos.

A plane is faster than a train.







5°F is colder than 85°F.

Sanjay is younger than Tina.





Emma is older than Sharon.

My friends are quicker than me.



### **COMMON MISTAKES** "THAN" WITH COMPARATIVES

"Then" and "than" can easily be confused because they sound similar, but it is never correct to use "then" to form a comparative.

### Ahmed is taller than Jonathan.

The correct word to use in comparatives is "than."

Ahmed is taller then Jonathan.

"Then" sounds similar to "than," but it is not correct to use "then" after a comparative.

## 94.2 FORMING COMPARATIVES

There are different rules for forming comparatives depending on the ending of the simple form of the adjective.

**ADJECTIVE** 

close

**COMPARATIVE** 

closer

If the adjective ends in \_ "-e," just an "-r" is added.

early

earlier

For some adjectives ending \_ in "-y," the "-y" is removed and "-ier" added.

big

For single-syllable adjectives ending consonant-vowelconsonant, the final letter is doubled and "-er" added.

#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**



An elephant is larger than a rhino.



My bedroom is tidier

than my sister's.



Spain is hotter than England.

#### IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES 94.3

Some common adjectives have irregular comparatives.

**ADJECTIVE** 

COMPARATIVE

good



better

bad



worse

far

farther (US) further (UK)

#### TIP

In US English, "further" and "furthest" are used to describe figurative (not physical) distances.

#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**





The house is farther away than the tree.





Jill got a better grade than John.





London has worse weather than Paris.

# 94.4 COMPARATIVES WITH LONG ADJECTIVES

For some two-syllable adjectives and adjectives with three syllables or more, "more" and "than" are used to make the comparative.





This beach is more beautiful than that one.

The adjective "beautiful" has three \_ syllables, so "beautifuller" is not correct.





This beach is less beautiful than that one.

#### **HOW TO FORM**

"More" can be replaced by "less" to give the

opposite meaning.

SUBJECT + VERB

"MORE / LESS"

**ADJECTIVE** 

"THAN"

**REST OF SENTENCE** 

This beach is

more

less

beautiful

than

that one.

#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**







For me, history is less difficult than science.



Spiders are more frightening than wasps.





This book is more interesting than that one.



Walking is less tiring than running.





This dress is more glamorous than I expected. My job is less exciting than I'd hoped.

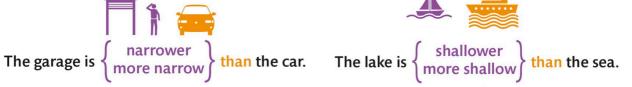
## 94.5 TWO-FORM COMPARATIVES

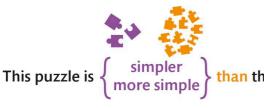
Some two-syllable adjectives have two possible comparative forms. Either the comparative ending can be added, or "more" can be used before the adjective.

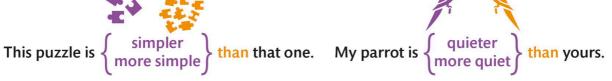


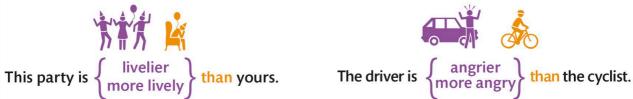














### **COMMON MISTAKES FORMING COMPARATIVES**

When forming comparatives, it is incorrect to add "more" before the adjective if it already has a comparative ending.

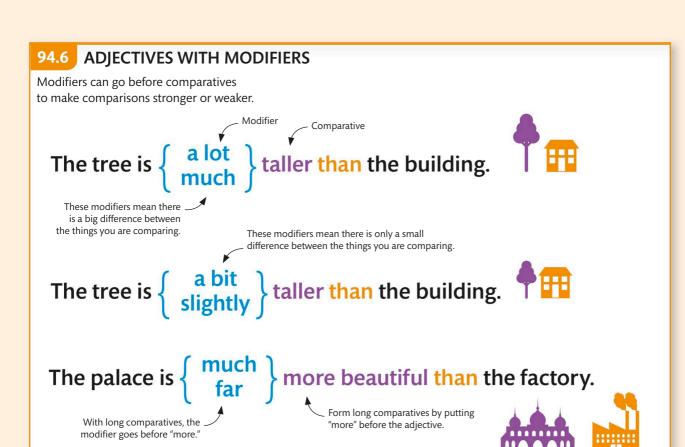
He's more friendly than her.

He's more friendlier than her.

"Friendlier" and "more friendly" are correct, but "more friendlier" is not.

He's friendlier than her.





#### **FURTHER EXAMPLES**

The mountain is much taller than the hill.



The castle is slightly bigger than the hotel.



The house is a bit taller than the statue.



The dress is a lot more expensive than the shoes.



#### **COMMON MISTAKES** USING "VERY" WITH COMPARATIVES

It is incorrect to modify comparatives with "very."

The tree is much taller than the building.

The tree is very taller than the building. 🔇