

9C comparative adjectives

Is your sister **older than** you?

4 47)))

Buckingham Palace is **bigger than** the White House.

Female mosquitoes are **more dangerous than** males.

My new job is **better than** my old one.

The traffic is always **worse** in the evening.

- Use comparative adjectives + *than* to compare two things, people, etc.

adjective	comparative	
old cheap	older cheaper	one-syllable adjectives: add <i>-er</i>
big hot	bigger hotter	adjectives ending one vowel + one consonant: double consonant, add <i>-er</i>
dry healthy	drier healthier	one- or two-syllable adjectives ending consonant + <i>y</i> > <i>-ier</i>
famous expensive	more famous more expensive	two- or more syllable adjectives: <i>more</i> + adjective
good bad far	better worse further	irregular

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.



94.2 FORMING COMPARATIVES

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

ADJECTIVE

close

early

big

COMPARATIVE

closer

earlier

bigger

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

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

For single-syllable adjectives ending consonant-vowel-consonant, 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.

94.3 IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES

Some common adjectives have irregular comparatives.

ADJECTIVE

good

bad

far

COMPARATIVE

better

worse

farther (US)
further (UK)

TIP

In US English, "farther" 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.

"More" can be replaced by "less" to give the opposite meaning.



This beach is **less beautiful** **than** that one.

HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT + VERB

"MORE / LESS"

ADJECTIVE

"THAN"

REST OF SENTENCE

This beach is

more

less

beautiful

than

that one.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



Spiders are more frightening **than** wasps.



For me, history is less difficult **than** science.



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.

a Write the comparative form of these adjectives.

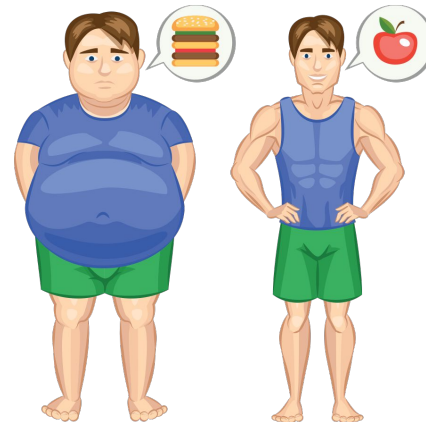
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| big | <i>bigger</i> |
| 1 high | _____ |
| 2 dirty | _____ |
| 3 dangerous | _____ |
| 4 good | _____ |
| 5 thin | _____ |
| 6 slow | _____ |
| 7 healthy | _____ |
| 8 far | _____ |
| 9 comfortable | _____ |
| 10 bad | _____ |

b Complete with a comparative adjective + *than*.

My sister is younger than me. She's only 18. (young)

- The market is _____ the supermarket for vegetables. (cheap)
- Italian is _____ for Spanish students _____ it is for English students. (easy)
- It rains a lot in the spring. April is _____ July (wet)
- This restaurant is _____ when it first opened. (busy)
- Come in the summer. The weather is _____ in the spring. (good)
- I love science. I find it _____ history. (interesting)
- Milan is _____ from the sea _____ Rome. (far)
- I'm _____ my brother. He's very tall. (short)
- The situation is _____ it was last year. (bad)
- Skiing is _____ I thought it was. (difficult)

← p.73





b Play *Quiz Night*. You are the contestant.

- A will read you his / her sentence 1. You must say if it's true or false.
- A will tell you if you are right, and give you extra information.
- If you are right, you win 500 euros. A then reads you sentence 2 for 1,000 euros, sentence 3 for 2,000 euros, sentence 4 for 4,000 euros, etc.
- If you get a question wrong, you lose all the money, but continue to play. The prize starts again from 500 euros.

c Play *Quiz Night* again. You are the presenter. Use your questions 1–8.





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Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?

A quiz show where contestants can **win** a maximum **prize** of one million pounds if they can answer multiple choice questions which become more and more difficult.

Contestants have three possibilities of getting help: they can ask the **audience**, reduce the four choices to two, or they can phone a friend.



Mastermind

A quiz programme where contestants answer questions on a specialist subject which they choose, and then answer **general knowledge** questions.



Q Who is the best quiz contestant in the country?

A Pat Gibson

Last night Pat Gibson ¹ *had* a big party after winning *Mastermind* on BBC TV. But it ² _____ not his first celebration party. Last April Mr Gibson ³ _____ £1 million in *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* and ⁴ _____ the first person in Britain to win both quizzes.

In the *Mastermind* **final** Pat, a 43-year-old computer programmer who is obsessed with **trivia**, **beat** five other contestants, including a university lecturer. During the **competition** he ⁵ _____ questions on several specialist subjects, for example film director Quentin Tarantino and science fiction author Iain M Banks.



In *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* he ⁶ _____ to the final question and still had the possibility of phoning a friend for help. He was sure that he ⁷ _____ the answer, but he ⁸ _____ Mark Kerr, a friend, to double-check it. Mark was happy to help him – six weeks before, Pat ⁹ _____ Mark to win £250,000 on the same show as **his** phone-a-friend!