

## COMPARATIVE DEGREE ADJECTIVES MODIFICATION

Study these examples:

How shall we travel? By car or by train?

-Let's go by car. It's **cheaper**.

-Don't go by train. It's **more expensive**.

**Cheaper** and **more expensive** are comparative form.

After comparatives you can use **than**

-It's **cheaper** to go by car **than** by train.

-Going by train is **more expensive than** going by car.

The comparative form is **-er** or **more**...

<p>We use <b>-er</b> for short words (one syllable):  <b>cheap</b> ⇨ cheaper                      <b>fast</b> ⇨ faster  <b>large</b> ⇨ larger                          <b>thin</b> ⇨ thinner</p> <p>We also use -er for two-syllable words that end in <b>-y</b> (<b>-y</b> ⇨ <b>-ier</b>):  lucky ⇨ luckier                          early ⇨ earlier  easy ⇨ easier                              pretty ⇨ prettier</p>	<p>We use <b>more</b> ... for longer words (two syllables or more):  <b>more serious</b>                              <b>more often</b>  <b>more quietly</b>                              <b>more carefully</b></p> <p>We also use <b>more</b>... for adverbs that end in <b>-ly</b>:  <b>more slowly</b>                              <b>more seriously</b>  <b>more quietly</b>                              <b>more carefully</b></p>
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Compare these examples:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You're <b>older</b> than me.</li> <li>• The exam was fairly easy – <b>easier</b> than I expected.</li> <li>• Can you walk a bit <b>faster</b>?</li> <li>• I'd like to have a <b>bigger</b> car.</li> <li>• Last night I went to bed <b>earlier</b> than usual.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You're <b>more patient</b> than me.</li> <li>• The exam was quite difficult – <b>more difficult</b> than I expected.</li> <li>• Can you walk a bit <b>more slowly</b>?</li> <li>• I'd like to have a <b>more reliable</b> car.</li> <li>• I don't play tennis much these days. I used to play <b>more often</b>.</li> </ul>
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You can use **-er** or **more** ... with some two-syllable adjectives, especially:

**clever**              **narrow**                      **quiet**              **shallow**              **simple**

It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere **quieter** / **more quiet** ?

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 is 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)

**Further** (but not farther) can also mean 'more' or 'additional':

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

## EXERCISES:

1. Complete the sentences using a comparative form.

1. It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere .....
2. This coffee is very weak. I like it bit .....
3. The hotel was suprisingly big. I expected it to be .....
4. The hotel was suprisingly cheap. I expected it to be.....
5. The weather is too cold here. I'd like to live somewhere.....
6. My job is a bit boring sometimes. I'd like to do something .....
7. It's a pity you live so far away. I wish you lived.....
8. I was suprised how easy it was to use the computer. 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. I was suprised we got here so quickly. I expected the journey to take.....
12. You're talking very loudly. Can you speak a bit.....
13. You hardly ever phone me. Why don't you phone me .....
14. You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit ..... away?
15. You were a bit depressed yesterday, but you look..... today.

2. Complete the senstences. Each time use the comparative form of one of the words in the box. Use than where necessary.

big, crowded, early, easily, high, important, interested, peaceful, reliable, serious, simple, thin

1. I was feeling tired last night, so I went to bed ..... usual.
2. I'd like to have a ..... car. The one I've got keeps breaking down.
3. Unfortunately her illness was ..... we thought at first.
4. You look ..... Have you lost weight?
5. I want a ..... flat. We don't have enough space here.
6. He doesn't study very hard. He's ..... in having a good time.
7. Health and happiness are ..... money.
8. The instructions were very complicated. They could have been.....
9. There were a lot of people on the bus. It was..... usual.
10. I like living in the countryside. It's ..... living in a town.
11. You'll find your way around the town..... if you have a good map.
12. In some parts of the country, prices are..... in others.

3. 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.....
2. The journey takes for hours by car and five hours by train.  
It takes.....
3. Dave and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dave stopped after eight kilometres.  
I ran.....
4. Chris and Joe both did badly in the test. Chris got 30%, but Joe only got 25%.  
Joe did.....
5. I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.  
My friends.....
6. You can go by bus or by train. The buses run every 30 minutes. The trains run every hour.  
The buses.....
7. We were very busy at work today. We're not usually as busy as that.  
We.....