

COMPARATIVES

The **comparative** of adjectives and adverbs is used to compare peoples, events, or things. Most adjectives add a suffix **-er** to form the corresponding comparatives.

If the adjective or adverb **ends in a single consonant**, double that consonant before adding the **-er**

If the adjective or adverb **ends in -y**, change **-y** to **-i** before adding the **-er**

Adjective	Comparative
hard	harder
early	earlier
poor	poorer
flat	flatter
sad	sadder

Adverb	Comparative
hard	harder
early	earlier
soon	sooner
fast	faster
late	later

Comparatives can also be formed by placing the word **“more”** in front of **adjectives or adverbs that are long** (two syllables or more) or come to English from **French, Latin, or other foreign sources**. **“More”** can be replaced with **“less”** to achieve the opposite meaning.

Adjective	Comparative
visible	more visible
truthful	less truthful
homogeneous	more homogeneous
superficial	less superficial
controllable	more controllable

Adverb	Comparative
eagerly	more eagerly
hazardously	less hazardously
conveniently	more conveniently
superficially	less superficially
controllably	more controllably

There are a few irregular formations of comparatives that should be memorized:

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Comparative Adjective and Adverb</u>
good	better
bad	worse
far	farther/further
well (health)	better
much	more
little (amount)	less
many	more

Notice that in all cases, the irregular comparatives are the same for the adjectives and the adverbs

Practice1: Fill in the comparative adjectives and adverbs for the adjective given.

Adjective	Comparative Adjective	Comparative Adverb
1. dark	_____	_____
2. bright	_____	_____
3. careful	_____	_____
4. strenuous	_____	_____
5. shallow	_____	_____
6. beautiful	_____	_____
7. straightforward	_____	_____
8. soon	_____	_____

9. well	_____	_____
10. special	_____	_____
11. obvious	_____	_____
12. bad	_____	_____
13. exciting	_____	_____
14. excited	_____	_____
15. good	_____	_____
16. loving	_____	_____
17. far	_____	_____
18. delightful	_____	_____

Answers1:

Adjective	Comparative Adjective	Comparative Adverb
1. dark	darker	more/less darkly
2. bright	brighter	more/less brightly
3. careful	more/less careful	more/less carefully
4. strenuous	more/less strenuous	more/less strenuously
5. shallow	shallower	more/less shallowly
6. beautiful	more/less beautiful	more/less beautifully
7. straightforward	more/less straightforward	more/less straightforwardly
8. soon	sooner	sooner
9. well	better	better
10. special	more/less special	more/less specially
11. obvious	more/less obvious	more/less obviously
12. bad	worse	worse
13. exciting	more/less exciting	more/less excitingly
14. excited	more/less excited	more/less excitedly
15. good	better	better
16. loving	more/less loving	more/less lovingly

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|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 17. far | further | further |
| 18. delightful | more/less delightful | more/less delightfully |

Practice2:

Write sentences with comparative adjectives and comparative adverbs from [Practice1](#)

Answers2:

1. The plot of the movie is **darker** with time. (adjective)
The plot of the movie got **more darkly** with time. (adverb)
2. Today's news gives peace a **brighter** prospect. (adjective)
The prospect of peace rises **more brightly** with today's news. (adverb)
3. This time they make **more careful** approach. (adjective)
This time they approach it **more carefully**. (adverb)
4. This is a **more strenuous** exercise. (adjective)
He exercises **more strenuously**. (adverb)
5. The conversation was **shallower** by the minute. (adjective)
The conversation turned **more shallowly** by the minute. (adverb)
6. His past performances were **more beautiful**. (adjective)
He performed **more beautifully** in the past. (adverb)
7. His reason is **more straightforward**. (adjective)
He reasons **more straightforwardly**. (adverb)
8. We need **sooner** result. (adjective)
We need the result **sooner**. (adverb)
9. Her tennis is **better** with his coaching. (adjective)
She plays **better** tennis with his coaching. (adverb)
10. The acts of kindness are **more special** during times of needs. (adjective)
The acts of kindness come **more specially** during times of needs. (adverb)
11. The solution is **more obvious** with logic. (adjective)
We find the solution **more obviously** with logic. (adverb)
12. The situation was **worse** than expected. (adjective)
The situation got **worse** than expected. (adverb)
13. The outcome was **more interesting** at the end. (adjective)
It developed **more interestingly** at the end. (adverb)
14. He was **more excited** departing when he learned that she would be there. (adjective)
He departed **more excitingly** when he learned that she would be there. (adverb)
15. She reaches **better** conclusion. (adjective)
She reaches conclusion **better**. (adverb)
16. That letter is **more loving** than the previous ones. (adjective)
He wrote **more lovingly** than last time. (adverb)
17. Jim is **further** behind with schoolwork. (adjective)
Jim falls **further** behind with schoolwork. (adverb)

18. This victory is **more** delightful. (adjective)
This victory feels **more delightfully**. (adverb).

The **conjunction than** is often used to compare peoples, events, or things. **Than** is used as a conjunction when followed by a subjective case.

My new car is **faster than** my old one.

Girls are **more mature than** boys of the same age.

Her **younger** sister is **more mischievous than** her.

They have **more** to clean now **than** ever before.

Often, **than** can also be considered as **preposition** when a pronoun in the objective case is used following **than**.

She exercises harder than **me**.

They got more respect than **us**.

Preposition

She is faster than me.

These people work harder than them.

I made more money than him.

Beth is more articulate than them.

Conjunction

She is faster than I (am fast).

These people worked harder than they (worked).

I made more money than he (made).

Beth is more articulate than they (are articulate).

It's common practice to omit obvious information in phrases following than.

She progresses more carefully **than I progressed**. -> She progresses more carefully **than I**.

Our contribution is larger **than your contribution**. -> Our contribution is larger **than yours**.

Two-Form Comparatives

Some two-syllable adjectives have two possible comparative forms either with "more" or comparative ending added.

This road is **narrower than** the previous.

This road is **more narrow than** the previous.

This problem is **simpler than** the last.

This problem is **more simple than** the last.

The second half turned **livelier than** the first.

The second half turned **more lively than** the first.

My neighborhood is **more quiet** than yours.

My neighborhood is **quieter** than yours.

Comparatives Showing Changes

Comparatives can be repeated to emphasize an increase or decrease in something.

This road got **narrower and narrower**.

This problem became **simpler and simpler**.

The traffic noise is getting **more and more annoying**.

The situation turns **more and more dangerous**.

A positive outcome becomes **less and less possible** as times pass.