

Mastering Comparative Adjectives: The Ultimate A1-A2 Guide to Older, Better, and More Interesting

Description

Have you ever wanted to explain why the city is **more exciting** than the countryside? Or why your new phone is **better** than your old one?

To make comparisons in English, we use a special grammar tool called **comparative adjectives**. Using them correctly is one of the quickest ways to move your English from a beginner level (A1) to an elementary level (A2).

In this ultimate guide, you will learn the simple formulas for making comparisons, master the spelling rules, explore real-world examples, and test your skills with our interactive grammar quiz!

? The Comparison Formula

When we compare two people, places, or things, we usually follow this simple sentence structure:

????????????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????????? ??????????
????????????????????????
? Noun 1 ? + ? Verb ? + ? Comparative ? + ? than ? + ?
 Noun 2 ?
? (The Subject)? ? (be) ? ? Adjective ? ? ? ?
(The Object)?
????????????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????????? ??????????
????????????????????????

Real-World Examples:

- “This new **house** is **older than** my house.”
- “The **city** is **more interesting than** the countryside.”
- “She is **better** at cooking now **than** she was last year.”

? How to Form Comparative Adjectives

The way we build a comparative adjective depends on one simple thing: **the number of syllables (beats) in the word.**

? 1. One-Syllable Adjectives (Short Words)

For short, one-syllable adjectives, we generally add **-er** to the end of the word.

Regular Rule: Add -er

- **old ? older**
- **clean ? cleaner**
- **slow ? slower**
- *Example:* "My grandmother's house is **older** than ours, but it is **cleaner!**"

If the word ends in **-e**: Just add **-r**

- **safe ? safer**
- **nice ? nicer**
- **large ? larger**
- *Example:* "This neighborhood feels **safer** at night."

Double Consonant Rule (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant):

If a short word ends with one consonant, one vowel, and one consonant (C-V-C), we **double the final consonant** before adding **-er**.

- **b – i – g (C-V-C) ? bigger**
- **h – o – t (C-V-C) ? hotter**
- **s – a – d (C-V-C) ? sadder**
- *Example:* "Spain is **hotter** than England in July."

? 2. Two-Syllable Adjectives Ending in "-y"

If an adjective has two syllables but ends in a consonant and **-y**, we change the **-y** to **-i** and add **-er**.

- **happy ? happier**
- **easy ? easier**
- **noisy ? noisier**
- **busy ? busier**
- *Example:* "Learning vocabulary is **easier** when you practice every day."

? 3. Two or More Syllables (Long Words)

For most adjectives with two syllables, and **all** adjectives with three or more syllables, we do not change the word. Instead, we put the word **more** before the adjective.

- **crowded** ? **more crowded**
- **stressful** ? **more stressful**
- **dangerous** ? **more dangerous**
- **interesting** ? **more interesting**
- *Example:* "Driving in heavy traffic is **more stressful** than walking."

? The "Two-Way" Exception

Some two-syllable adjectives are special. You can either add **-er** OR use **more**. Both are correct and natural!

Common examples include: *common, polite, gentle, simple, clever, and quiet.*

- "I think life in the countryside is **simpler**." (Using -er)
- "It is **more simple** to live in the city." (Using "more")

? 4. The Irregulars (No Rules!)

A few highly common adjectives are completely irregular. You must memorize these because they do not follow any of the patterns above:

Original Adjective	Comparative Form	Example Sentence
good	better	"My pronunciation is better now than before."
bad	worse	"The weather is worse today than it was yesterday."
far	further / farther	"The library is further down the road than the park."

*Note: **Farther** is typically used for physical distance, while **further** can mean both physical distance and "additional" (e.g., "further information").*

?? Common Pitfalls: The "Double Comparative" Trap

One of the most common beginner mistakes is using **both** "more" and "-er" at the same time. Never mix the two rules!

- ? *My car is more bigger than yours.*
- ? *My car is **bigger** than yours.*
- ? *This lesson is more easier.*
- ? *This lesson is **easier**.*

? Practice Time: Interactive Grammar Quiz

Are you ready to test your skills? Choose the correct comparative form to complete each sentence.

? Practice Tip for Your Vocabulary Notebook

To make this stick, pick three objects near you right now. Compare them in your notebook! For example:

- “My tea is **hotter** than my water.”
- “This book is **heavier** than my phone.”

Share your own comparative sentences in the comment section below, and our team at **Advanced English Lab** will check them for you!

Category

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Tags

1. Better
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