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Grammar Reference

Regular comparatives

Comparative superiority is expressed in two ways.

- **Adjective** + **'-er than'** is used with **short** adjectives (i.e., those containing one or — when they end with **'-er,' '-ow,' '-le'** and **'-y'** — two syllables). In such cases **'-y'** becomes **'-i.'**

Example: John's **taller than** Peter.
Is it **easier than** downhill skiing?

Note.

- **'-r'** is added to adjectives ending in **'-e.'**
- Example: He's **nicer than** you.
New York is **larger than** life!
- Final consonants of adjectives that end in **one vowel + one consonant** are **doubled** in the comparative.

Example: Their house is **bigger than** ours.

- **'Than'** + noun or noun phrase (or clause) is at times omitted.

Example: When will it get **warmer**?

- **'More'** + **adjective** (+ **'than'**) is used with **long** adjectives.

Example: My sister is **more intelligent than** my brother.
You know it is **more beneficial** on a long-term basis.

Comparative inferiority is expressed by **'less' + adjective** (+ **'than'**).

Example: This model is **less expensive than** the later one.

Note.

- **Comparative adverbs** are formed like **comparative** adjectives. All adverbs ending in '-y' are preceded by 'more.'

Example: She runs **faster** than you.
He drives **more slowly** nowadays.

- '**More**' and '**less**' can precede **nouns and noun phrases**.

Example: I would like **more details**.
A bank guarantee affords **less protection**.

To make a statement more specific, **quantifiers** or **numbers** sometimes come before the **more/less** + **noun** form.

Example: We need at least **two more hours** to finish the job.

We hope to have **many more success stories** in the future.

They've had **much less financial difficulty** this year.

5,000 less jobs were created this quarter than they were last quarter.

Note. In a sentence referring back to a **noun** that appeared previously, the **noun** may be dropped.

Example: We don't have enough skilled employees.
We need **four more** (skilled employees).

Irregular comparatives

Some **adjectives** and **adverbs** have **irregular comparative** forms. The most common examples follow.

<u>Adjective or adverb</u>	<u>Irregular comparative</u>
good	better
bad	worse
far	farther/further
much/many	more
little	less