

Comparative adjective

Comparative adjectives are a form *adjectives* take when comparing two (and only two) things, such as “she is **older** than him” or “he is **more serious** than them.” For most short adjectives, we simply add the **suffix -er** at the end of the word, while for longer adjectives we usually add the adverb **more** directly before the word.

The easiest way to use comparative adjectives in a sentence is this:

[Noun A] + [be or another linking verb] + [comparative adjective] + **than** + [Noun B]

In this construction, Noun A has more of the comparative adjective’s trait than Noun B.

*“Debugging code can be **more challenging than** writing it initially.”*

*“Adopting agile methodologies often leads to **quicker** project delivery.”*

*“Efficient algorithms tend to be **faster than** inefficient ones.”*



When to use more with comparative adjectives

For most *short adjectives*, we simply add the suffix **-er** at the end of the word, while for *longer adjectives* we usually add the adverb **more** directly before the word. That is a little vague, so here are the specific adjectives that use more:

- All adjectives with three or more syllables
- Adjectives with two syllables except those that end in **-er**, **-ow**, **-le**, or **-y**

So if an adjective has two or more syllables, it will probably use more. The only exceptions are two-syllable adjectives with the endings **-er**, **-ow**, **-le**, and **-y**—those use special spelling rules with the suffix **-er**, explained below.

