

Comparative

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

'Comparative' is short for 'comparative adjective/adverb'. In English, adjectives and adverbs take on different forms when we want to compare two things.

Forming Comparatives

There are two ways to form comparatives:

1. Add '-er' directly to one-syllable adjectives.

short words + '-*er*'

- *tall*: I'm **taller** than he is.
- *cheap*: This dress is **cheap***er* than that one.

and adverbs:

- *hard*: He works **hard**er than I do.
- *high*: Anna jumped **higher** than Lisa.
- soon: She arrived **sooner** than I did.



Note that we also add '-er' to longer words like 'easy,' which end in '-y'.

- easy: This was easier than I thought.
- *happy*: She is **happier** now that she has a pet.

2. Use 'more' before adjectives with two or more syllables.

'more' + long words

- Tom's car is *more* expensive than Ana's.
- This exercise is *more* difficult than the previous one.
- This painting is *more* beautiful than that one.

and adverbs:

- Please speak more quietly.
- We're going to be late. Let's walk *more* quickly.
- He should drive *more* carefully.



Words with Irregular Comparative Forms

Some adjectives and adverbs do not follow the two rules above. For example:

$$\label{eq:good} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{good} \ (adj) \ / \ \textbf{well} \ (adv) \to \textbf{better} \\ \\ \textbf{bad} \ (adj) \ / \ \textbf{badly} \ (adv) \to \textbf{worse} \\ \\ \textbf{little} \ (adj) \ / \ \textbf{little} \ (adv) \to \textbf{less} \\ \\ \textbf{far} \ (adj) \ / \ \textbf{far} \ (adv) \to \textbf{farther} \ (\textbf{distance}) \ / \textbf{further} \ (\textbf{extent}) \\ \\ \textbf{old} \ (adj) \to \textbf{older/elder} \end{array}$$



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

- 1. This wine is _____ than that one.
 - a) tastier
 - b) more tasty
- 2. Is this TV _____ than the one over there?
 - a) cheaper
 - b) more cheap
- 3. Is this TV _____ than the one over there?
 - a) expensiver
 - b) more expensive
- 4. Let's race to see who runs _____.
 - a) faster
 - b) more fast



5. She seems _____ than when I last saw her.

- a) happyer
- b) happier

6. He became _____ after his promotion.

- a) busyer
- b) busier

7. I like John and Megan, but John is _____ at cooking.

- a) gooder
- b) better

8. The country's situation has gotten _____ since the revolution.

- a) badder
- b) worse



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: famous, New York. → Is it more famous than New York?

Content:

- 1. populated, London.
- 2. crowded, Tokyo.
- 3. quiet, Moscow.
- 4. large, Los Angeles.
- 5. beautiful, Paris.
- 6. exciting, Belgrade.