

Comparison 1 (cheaper, more expensive etc.)

A

Study these examples:

How shall we travel? By car or by train?

Let's go by car. It's cheaper.

Don't go by train. It's more expensive.

Cheaper and more expensive are *comparative* forms.

After comparatives you can use **than** (see Unit 107):

It's cheaper to go by car **than** by train.

Going by train is **more expensive than** going by car.

B

The comparative form is **-er** or **more ...**

We use **-er** for short words (one syllable):

cheap → cheaper fast → faster
large → larger thin → thinner

We also use **-er** for two-syllable words that end in **-y** (-y → ier):

lucky → luckier early → earlier
easy → easier pretty → prettier

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

We use **more ...** for longer words (two syllables or more):

more serious more often
more expensive more comfortable

We also use **more ...** for adverbs that end in **-ly**:

more slowly more seriously
more quietly more carefully

Compare these examples:

- You're older than me.
- The exam was fairly easy – easier than I expected.
- Can you walk a bit faster?
- I'd like to have a bigger car.
- Last night I went to bed earlier than usual.

- You're more patient than me.
- The exam was quite difficult – more difficult than I expected.
- Can you walk a bit more slowly?
- I'd like to have a more reliable car.
- I don't play tennis much these days. I used to play more often.

You can use **-er** or **more ...** with some two-syllable adjectives, especially:

clever narrow quiet shallow simple

- It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere quieter / more quiet?

C

A few adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms:

good/well → better

- The garden looks better since you tidied it up.
- I know him well – probably better than anybody else knows him.

bad/badly → worse:

- 'How is your headache? Better?' 'No, it's worse.'
- He did very badly in the exam – worse than expected.

far → further (or farther):

- It's a long walk from here to the park – further than I thought. (or farther than)

Further (but not farther) can also mean 'more' or 'additional':

- Let me know if you hear any further news. (= any more news)

105.1 Complete the sentences using a comparative form (older / more important etc.).

- 1 It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere quieter ?
- 2 This coffee is very weak. I like it a bit
- 3 The hotel was surprisingly big. I expected it to be
- 4 The hotel was surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be
- 5 The weather is too cold here. I'd like to live somewhere
- 6 My job is a bit boring sometimes. I'd like to do something
- 7 It's a pity you live so far away. I wish you lived
- 8 I was surprised how easy it was to use the computer. I thought it would be
- 9 Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do
- 10 Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be
- 11 I was surprised we got here so quickly. I expected the journey to take
- 12 You're talking very loudly. Can you speak a bit
- 13 You hardly ever phone me. Why don't you phone me
- 14 You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit away?
- 15 You were a bit depressed yesterday, but you look today.

105.2 Complete the sentences. Each time use the comparative form of one of the words in the box. Use **than** where necessary.

big	crowded	early	easily	high	important
interested	peaceful	reliable	serious	simple	thin

- 1 I was feeling tired last night, so I went to bed earlier than usual.
- 2 I'd like to have a more reliable car. The one I've got keeps breaking down.
- 3 Unfortunately her illness was we thought at first.
- 4 You look Have you lost weight?
- 5 I want a flat. We don't have enough space here.
- 6 He doesn't study very hard. He's in having a good time.
- 7 Health and happiness are money.
- 8 The instructions were very complicated. They could have been
- 9 There were a lot of people on the bus. It was usual.
- 10 I like living in the countryside. It's living in a town.
- 11 You'll find your way around the town if you have a good map.
- 12 In some parts of the country, prices are in others.

105.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use a comparative form (-er or more ...).

- 1 Yesterday the temperature was six degrees. Today it's only three degrees. It's colder today than it was yesterday.
- 2 The journey takes four hours by car and five hours by train. It takes
- 3 Dave and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dave stopped after eight kilometres. I ran
- 4 Chris and Joe both did badly in the test. Chris got 30%, but Joe only got 25%. Joe did
- 5 I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30. My friends
- 6 You can go by bus or by train. The buses run every 30 minutes. The trains run every hour. The buses
- 7 We were very busy at work today. We're not usually as busy as that. We