

Comparative Adjectives - Grammar Rules

Use comparative adjectives to compare two people, places, or things.

To make a comparison, add *-er* to the end of a short adjective or add *more* before a long adjective. Use *than* before the second noun.

Comparative Adjectives	Form	Example
one syllable	Adj + <i>-er</i>	tall + <i>-er</i> = taller
two syllables ending in <i>-y</i>	<i>-y</i> changes to <i>-i</i> + <i>-er</i>	happy + <i>-er</i> = happier
two syllables (not ending in <i>-y</i>)	<i>more</i> + Adj	<i>more</i> + famous = more famous
three (or more) syllables	<i>more</i> + Adj	<i>more</i> + beautiful = more beautiful

Exceptions

Note #1

Some two-syllable adjectives don't follow the normal rules.

For example, we can say *friendlier* **or** *more friendly* and *simpler* **or** *more simple*.

Other such adjectives include *angry*, *cruel*, *handsome*, *gentle*, and *quiet*.

Note #2

Participial adjectives (*-ed* or *-ing* adjectives) are always formed with **more + adjective**. Do not use *-er* even if the adjective has only one syllable.

For example, we must say *more bored*, *more tired*, *more thrilling*, and *more exciting*.

Note #3

Irregular comparative adjectives include:

- good → better
- bad → worse
- far → farther/further

Examples:

- Maria is **taller than** Jack.
- I feel **happier** today **than** I did yesterday.
- The buildings are **more modern** in New York City **than** in my city.
- Sunsets at the beach are **more beautiful than** sunsets in the city.

Note:

Remember to use the comparison word “**than**” in your sentences.