

A



**Older / heavier / more expensive** are *comparative* forms.  
The comparative is **-er** (**older**) or **more ...** (**more expensive**).

B

**older/heavier** etc.

Short words (1 syllable) → **-er**:

old → **older**          slow → **slower**          cheap → **cheaper**  
nice → **nicer**          late → **later**          big → **bigger**

*Spelling* (→ Appendix 5): big → bigger    hot → hotter    thin → thinner

Words ending in **-y** → **-ier**:

easy → **easier**          heavy → **heavier**          early → **earlier**

- Rome is **old**, but Athens is **older**. (*not* more old)
- Is it **cheaper** to go by car or by train? (*not* more cheap)
- Helen wants a **bigger** car.
- This coat is OK, but I think the other one is **nicer**.
- Don't take the bus. It's **easier** to take a taxi. (*not* more easy)

**far** → **further**:

- 'How far is it to the station? A mile?' 'No, it's **further**. About two miles.'

C

**more ...**

Long words (2/3/4 syllables) → **more ...** :

careful → **more careful**          polite → **more polite**  
expensive → **more expensive**          interesting → **more interesting**

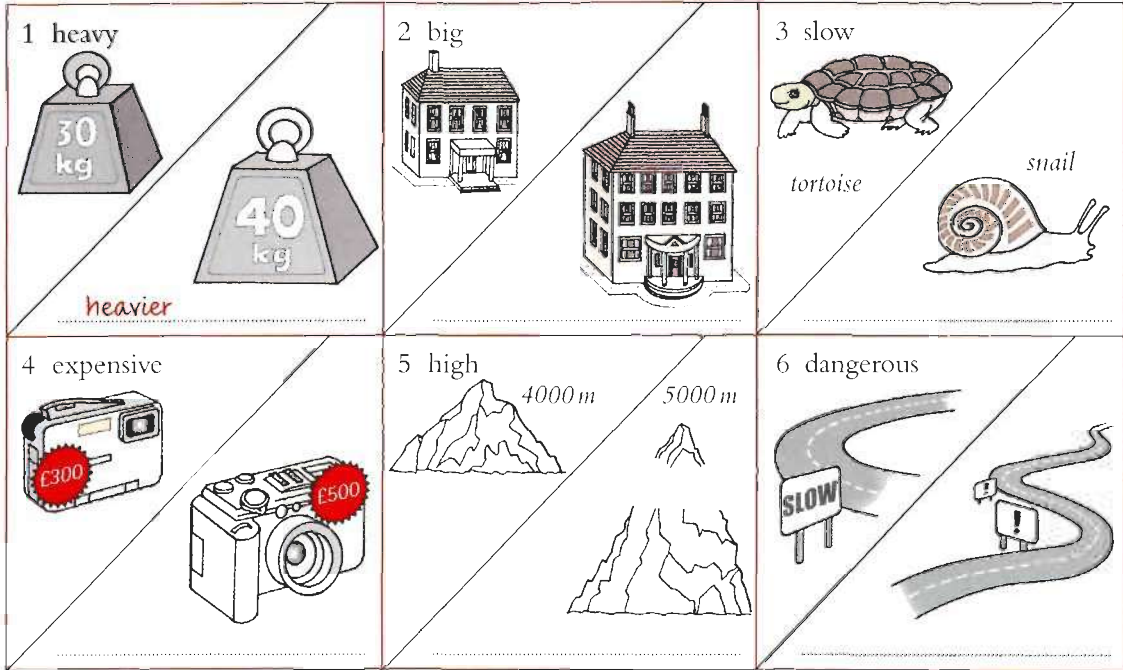
- You must be **more careful**.
- I don't like my job. I want to do something **more interesting**.
- Is it **more expensive** to go by car or by train?

D

**good/well** → **better**    **bad** → **worse**

- The weather wasn't very **good** yesterday, but it's **better** today.
- 'Do you feel **better** today?' 'No, I feel **worse**.'
- Which is **worse** – a headache or a toothache?

## 87.1 Look at the pictures and write the comparative (older / more interesting etc.).



## 87.2 Write the comparative.

- |             |       |            |  |
|-------------|-------|------------|--|
| 1 old       | older | 6 good     |  |
| 2 strong    |       | 7 large    |  |
| 3 happy     |       | 8 serious  |  |
| 4 modern    |       | 9 pretty   |  |
| 5 important |       | 10 crowded |  |

## 87.3 Write the opposite.

- |           |       |          |  |
|-----------|-------|----------|--|
| 1 younger | older | 4 better |  |
| 2 colder  |       | 5 nearer |  |
| 3 cheaper |       | 6 easier |  |

## 87.4 Complete the sentences. Use a comparative.

- Helen's car isn't very big. She wants a bigger one.
- My job isn't very interesting. I want to do something more interesting.
- You're not very tall. Your brother is .....
- David doesn't work very hard. I work .....
- My chair isn't very comfortable. Yours is .....
- Your idea isn't very good. My idea is .....
- These flowers aren't very nice. The blue ones are .....
- My bag isn't very heavy. Your bag is .....
- I'm not very interested in art. I'm ..... in history.
- It isn't very warm today. It was ..... yesterday.
- These tomatoes don't taste very good. The other ones tasted .....
- Britain isn't very big. France is .....
- London isn't very beautiful. Paris is .....
- This knife isn't very sharp. Have you got a ..... one?
- People today aren't very polite. In the past they were .....
- The weather isn't too bad today. Often it is much .....

# older than ... more expensive than ...

A



Hotel Prices (per room per night)	
Europa Hotel	£140
Grand Hotel	£130
Royal Hotel	£125
tel	£110

She's **taller than** him.

The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** the Grand.

We use **than** after comparatives (**older than ... / more expensive than ...** etc.):

- Athens is **older than** Rome.
- Are oranges **more expensive than** bananas?
- It's **easier** to take a taxi **than** to take the bus.
- 'How are you today?' 'Not bad. **Better than** yesterday.'
- The restaurant is **more crowded than** usual.

B

We usually say: than **me** / than **him** / than **her** / than **us** / than **them**.

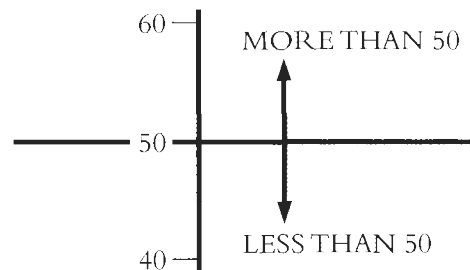
You can say:

- I can run faster **than him**. or I can run faster **than he can**.
- You are a better singer **than me**. or You are a better singer **than I am**.
- I got up earlier **than her**. or I got up earlier **than she did**.

C

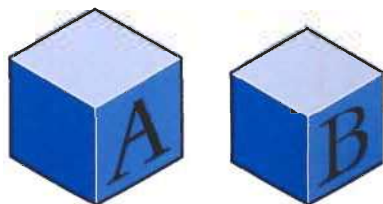
**more/less than ...**

- A: How much did your shoes cost? £50?
- B: No, **more than** that. (= **more than** £50)
- The film was very short – **less than** an hour.
- They've got **more money than** they need.
- You go out **more than** me.

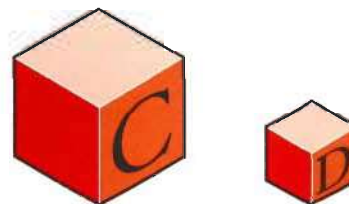


D

**a bit older / much older** etc.



Box A is **a bit bigger** than Box B.



Box C is **much bigger** than Box D.

<b>a bit much</b>	bigger	than ...
	older	
	better	
	more difficult	
	more expensive	

- Canada is **much bigger** than France.
- Sue is **a bit older** than Gary – she's 25 and he's 24.
- The hotel was **much more expensive** than I expected.
- You go out **much more** than me.

## 88.1 Write sentences about Liz and Ben. Use than.



Liz

- 1 I'm 26.
- 2 I'm not a very good swimmer.
- 3 I'm 1 metre 68 tall.
- 4 I start work at 8 o'clock.
- 5 I don't work very hard.
- 6 I haven't got much money.
- 7 I'm a very good driver.
- 8 I'm not very patient.
- 9 I'm not a very good dancer.
- 10 I'm very intelligent.
- 11 I speak French very well.
- 12 I don't go to the cinema very much.

Ben



- 1 I'm 24.
- 2 I'm a very good swimmer.
- 3 I'm 1 metre 63 tall.
- 4 I start work at 8.30.
- 5 I work very hard.
- 6 I've got a lot of money.
- 7 I'm not a very good driver.
- 8 I'm very patient.
- 9 I'm a good dancer.
- 10 I'm not very intelligent.
- 11 I don't speak French very well.
- 12 I go to the cinema a lot.

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1 Liz <u>is older than Ben</u> .....            | 7 Liz is a ..... |
| 2 Ben <u>is a better swimmer than Liz</u> ..... | 8 Ben .....      |
| 3 Liz is .....                                  | 9 Ben .....      |
| 4 Liz starts ..... Ben.                         | 10 Liz .....     |
| 5 Ben .....                                     | 11 Liz .....     |
| 6 Ben has got .....                             | 12 Ben .....     |

## 88.2 Complete the sentences. Use than.

- 1 He isn't very tall. You're taller than him (OR taller than he is) .....
- 2 She isn't very old. You're .....
- 3 I don't work very hard. You work .....
- 4 He doesn't watch TV very much. You .....
- 5 I'm not a very good cook. You .....
- 6 We don't know many people. You .....
- 7 They haven't got much money. You .....
- 8 I can't run very fast. You can .....
- 9 She hasn't been here very long. You .....
- 10 They didn't get up very early. You .....
- 11 He wasn't very surprised. You .....

## 88.3 Complete the sentences with a bit or much + comparative (older/better etc.).

- 1 Emma is 25. Gary is 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Emma is a bit older than Gary .....
- 2 Jack's mother is 52. His father is 69.  
Jack's mother .....
- 3 My camera cost £100. Yours cost £96.  
My camera .....
- 4 Yesterday I felt terrible. Today I feel OK.  
I feel .....
- 5 Today the temperature is 12 degrees. Yesterday it was 10 degrees.  
It's .....
- 6 Sarah is an excellent tennis player. I'm not very good.  
Sarah .....