

Grammar: Comparative Adjectives

Intermediate English, Fall 2020 Week 3

Comparing people or things

- We use adjectives to describe or give more information about a noun
 - For example: big, fast, beautiful, interesting, green, long, happy, etc.
- Sometimes, we want to use an adjective to compare two nouns and talk about how they are different
- To do this, we change it to a *comparative adjective* and add *than*
 - Lucy is 8 years old. Michael is 6 years old. Lucy is *older than* Michael.
- For some adjectives, we add *-er* to the end
 - Dogs are *smaller than* horses.
- Other adjectives use *more* + adjective
 - Movies are *more interesting than* TV shows.

Syllables

- To correctly use *-er* or *more*, we need to know how to count *syllables*
- A *syllable* is a way we can break a word apart into smaller sounds
- Many simple words in English have one syllable
 - Examples: cat, bed, chair, house, school, friend, car, work, etc.
- But other words have more than one. How many do these have?
 - Mother, water, microwave, neighborhood, teacher, information, happiness

Adjectives with -er

- We add **-er** to an adjective when it is one syllable
 - Some one syllable adjectives: big, small, fast, slow, hot, cold, old, young, etc...
 - My car is faster than your car.
- When the adjective ends in **-e**, just add **-r**
 - Cute → cuter – Cats are cuter than dogs.
- When an adjective ends with one vowel and one consonant, double the consonant, then add **-er**
 - Hot → hotter – The weather today is hotter than yesterday.
- For all adjectives that end in **-y**, even more than one syllable, use **-ier**
 - **-y** → **-ier** – English class is easier than math class.

**** don't forget to use *than* after the adjective!**

Adjectives with *more*

- If an adjective has 2 or more syllables and doesn't end with *-y*, use *more* before the adjective to compare two things
 - Adjectives: famous, interesting, beautiful, dangerous, important, delicious, difficult, expensive, colorful, etc...
 - A car is *more expensive* than a bicycle.
- You don't need to use *-er* or change the spelling of the adjective
 - Pizza is *more delicious* than salad.
 - **NOT** ~~Pizza is *more deliciuser* than salad!~~

To summarize -

- If an adjective has **one syllable**, always use **-er**
 - Big → bigger; small → smaller
- If it has **two syllables**, use **-er** if it ends with **-y**, and **more** if it ends with a different letter
 - Happy → happier; famous → more famous
- For **three syllables**, always use **more**
 - Exciting → more exciting; colorful → more colorful

Good, bad, and far

- There are three adjectives that change differently: **good**, **bad**, and **far**
- The comparative for **good** is **better**
 - Soccer is **better** than basketball.
- The comparative for **bad** is **worse**
 - Hamburgers are **worse** than pasta.
- The comparative for **far** is **farther** or **further**
- Don't forget – these adjectives don't follow the rules!
 - **Good** → **Better** NOT ~~gooder~~
 - **Bad** → **Worse** NOT ~~badder~~

Let's practice!

Change the adjectives with –er or more

- Short ➤ Shorter
- Good ➤ Better
- Happy ➤ Happier
- Intelligent ➤ More intelligent
- Big ➤ Bigger
- Difficult ➤ More difficult
- Funny ➤ Funnier
- Nice ➤ Nicer

Fix the mistakes in the sentences

1. My brother's car is ~~more~~ faster than my car.
2. I think the weather today is worser~~r~~ than yesterday's weather.
3. A house in Minnesota will be ~~more cheap~~ ^{cheaper} than one in California.
4. The United States is ~~farer~~ ^{farther} from Ethiopia than from Mexico.
5. In my opinion, math class is ~~more easy~~ ^{easier} than history class.



Let's practice! Write a sentence about this picture using a comparative adjective.

What about these horses?

Draft horse →



← Pony



Studio apartment



Luxury apartment

How about these apartments?

Compare the weather in these places.

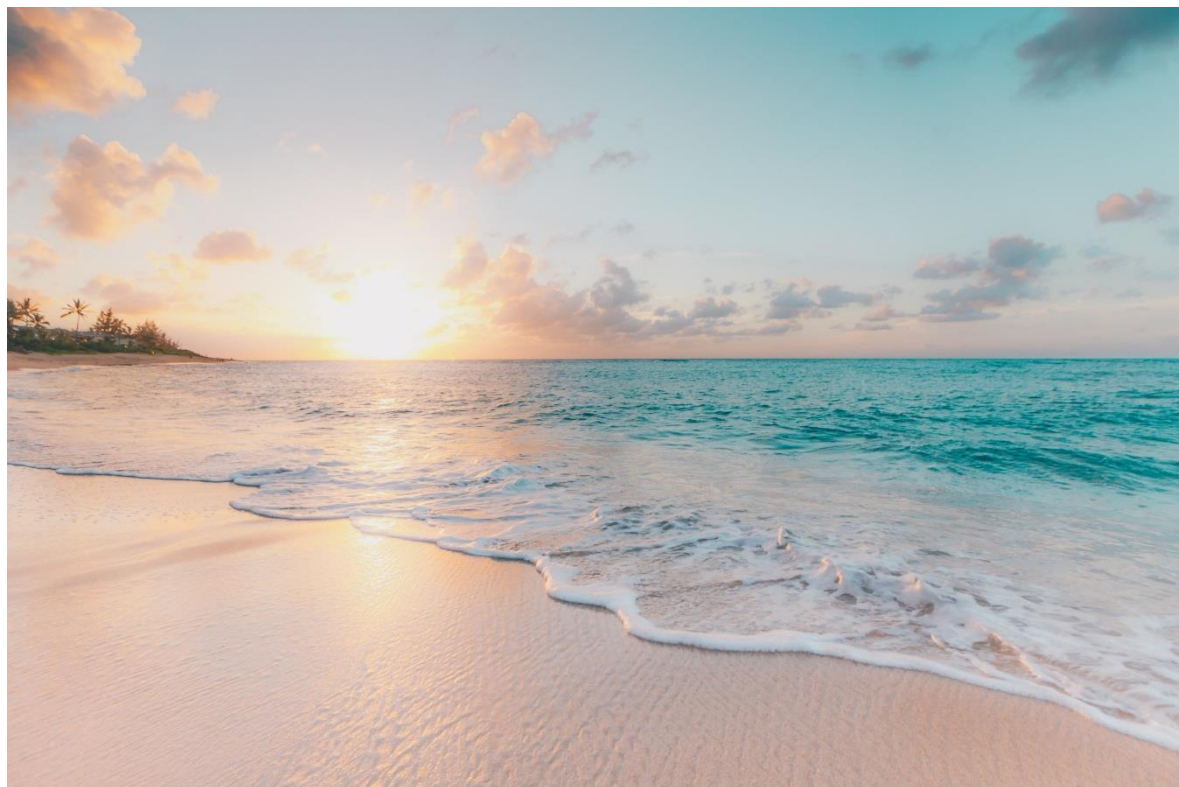


Hawaii



Vancouver

Can you make a sentence about these beaches?



Thanks for watching!