

What is the comparative?

We use the English comparative to compare and describe things or people:

To do this, we need to use *comparative adjectives*:

- We need a **bigger** boat.
- I'm feeling **better** now.

Comparative adjectives

Let's look at the formation of English comparative adjectives, there are several types:

Comparative adjectives with one syllable: *fast, great, quick, short, small, tall...*

It is necessary to add **-er**

- cheap => cheaper
- high => higher

Comparative adjectives with one syllable ending in 'e': *close, huge, large, strange...*

It is necessary to add **-r**

- nice => nicer
- wise => wiser

Adjectives that end in consonants /vowel/consonants: *fat, red, sad, thin...*

it is necessary to add an additional consonant followed by **-er**

- big => bigger
- hot => the hotter

Adjectives in two syllables ending with -y: *heavy, tiny...*

you have to replace the **-y** by **-ier**

- happy => happier
- crazy => crazier
- early => earlier
- easy => easier
- pretty => prettier

Adjectives in two or more syllables: *important, delicious, generous...*

It is necessary to add the word **'more'**

- beautiful => more beautiful

- expensive => more expensive

Irregular comparative adjectives:

- good => better
- bad => worse
- far => further
- little => the smaller

How to compare two things

To compare one thing with another you have to use THAN:

- He is three years older than me.
- New York is much bigger than Chicago.
- Zidane is a better football player than Ronaldo.
- Australia is a bigger country than Portugal.

When you want to describe how something or someone has changed you can use the same comparison twice with 'and' between them:

- The lake got bigger and bigger.
- Everything is getting more and more expensive.
- My house is looking older and older.

THE is often used with comparative adjectives to show that one thing depends on another:

- The faster you drive, the more dangerous it is.
- The higher he climbed, the colder it got.
- The longer you wait, the harder it gets.

How to say that two things are equal: As... as...

We use **as + adjective + as** to say that two things are similar or equal:

- He's as tall as me.
- Tom's bike is as fast as mine.

We use **not as + adjective + as** to say that two things are not equal:

- Danny's car is not as fast as mine.

⚠ We can modify the comparisons with *by*, *far*, *easily* and *nearly*:

- Burger King is *by far* better than Mac Donald.
- She's *nearly* taller than him.

⚠ Be careful not to confuse superlatives and comparative!