

## Making Comparisons in English

In affirmative statements we can use "as..as" with the positive form of the adjective to compare one person, thing or situation with another.

"In Mathematics memorisation is as important as it is in Chemistry."

"The final year student felt as nervous as a fresher when she entered the hall."

"I was never as confident as my peers when it came to taking exams."



In negative statements, we can use "*not as/not so...as*" with adjectives, or "*not such...as*" with nouns.

"In London, taxis are not as/so expensive as they are in New York."

"Rail commuters are not as/so tired in the evening as those who travel to work on foot."

"Buying a new computer was not such a large expense as I had initially anticipated."

"Buying a new computer was not as/so large an expense as I had initially anticipated."

} notice the different position of 'a' or 'an' in these two examples

+ noun  
+ adjective

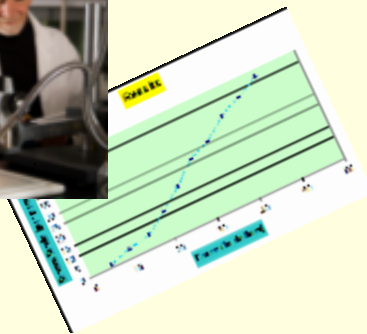


Another way of making comparisons is to use the comparative form of the adjective and "*than*":

"My results were more conclusive than I had expected before doing the experiment."

"The recorded temperatures were hotter in the city centre than the suburbs."

"The results were worse than forecast in the final testing."



To form the comparative form of the adjective:

Add 'r' or 'er', if the adjective has one syllable e.g. cold/colder, late/later, hot/hotter etc.

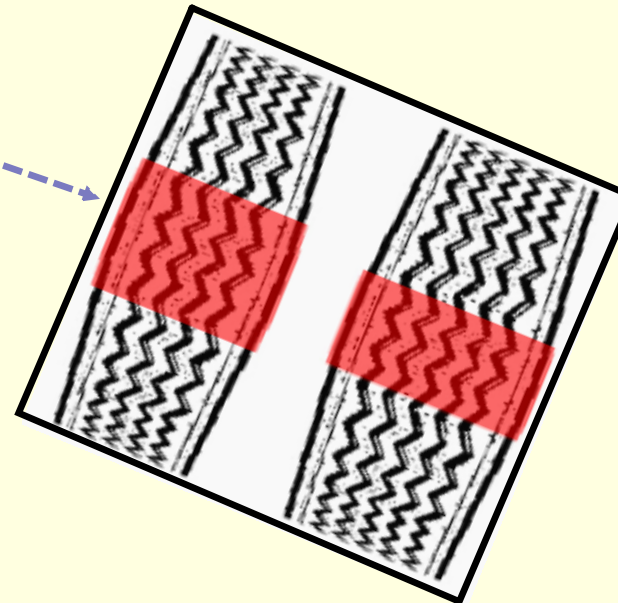
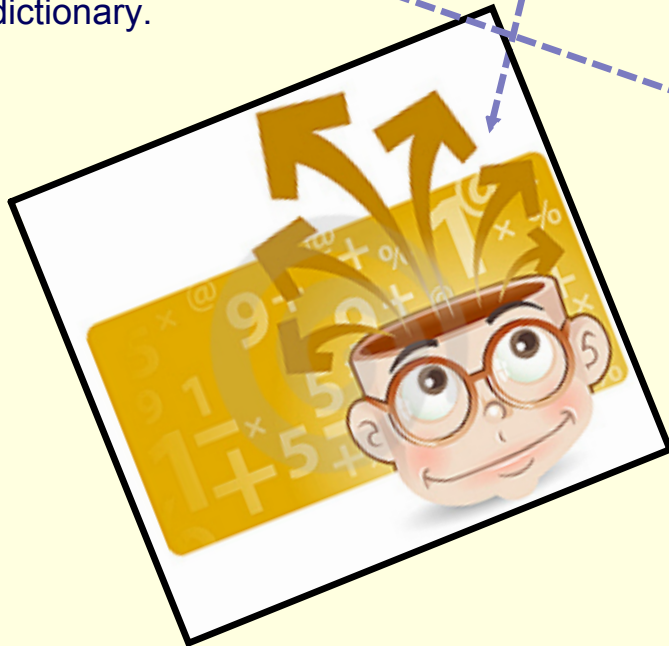
Spelling note: if the word ends in consonant-vowel-consonant, then the last consonant is usually doubled in the comparative. Examples: fat-fatter, big-bigger, hot-hotter.

If the adjective has two syllables, change the 'y' to an 'i' and add 'er' e.g. easier, happier, friendlier etc.



Other adjectives with two syllables and those with three or more syllables need the word "*more*" before the unchanged adjective to form the comparative e.g. more intelligent, more interesting, more substantial etc.

Note: the comparative of some shorter two syllable adjectives can be formed with '-er'. Examples: clever-cleverer, narrow-narrower. To be sure which comparative form to use, you will need to consult a good dictionary.



Do not forget that some of the highest frequency adjectives have irregular comparative forms e.g. bad/worse, good/better etc.

To form comparative adverbs, use 'r' or 'er' if the word has one syllable and use "*more*" if the word has two or more syllables e.g.

"The assignment was submitted later than the others."

"Mohammed memorised the rules more quickly than the others in the class."

"I studied harder than my brother all year."



Now try the exercises, good luck!