



Universidad  
Autónoma  
de Coahuila

# COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

ENGLISH II

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE COAHUILA

## Comparative adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (larger, smaller, faster, higher). They are used in sentences where two nouns are compared, in this pattern:

Noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + than + noun (object).

The second item of comparison can be omitted if it is clear from the context (final example below).

### Examples

- My house is larger than hers.
- This box is smaller than the one I lost.
- Your dog runs faster than Jim's dog.
- The rock flew higher than the roof.
- Jim and Jack are both my friends, but I like Jack better. ("than Jim" is understood)

Forming comparatives is easy. The form depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective.

## One syllable adjectives

Add -er if the adjective has a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative</b>
tall	taller
fat	fatter
big	bigger
sad	sadder

## Two syllables

Adjectives with two syllables can form the comparative either by adding -er or by preceding the adjective with more. For adjectives ending in y, change the y to an i before adding the ending.

<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative</b>
happy	happier
simple	simpler
busy	busier
tilted	more tilted
tangled	more tangled

### Three or more syllables

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting more in front of the adjective.

<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative</b>
important	more important
expensive	more expensive

### Irregular comparatives

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms.

<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative</b>
good	better
bad	worse
little	less
much	more
far	further / farther

## Examples

- You play tennis better than I do.
- This sweater is less expensive than that one.
- I ran pretty far yesterday, but I ran even farther today.

Reference:

EF (s.f.). The comparative and the superlative.

Retrieved from: <https://www.ef.com/wwen/english-resources/english-grammar/comparative-and-superlative/>