

Comparative adjectives discuss and agree

Using adjectives like those below, try to make statements that you both agree with. The adjectives must match both of the things that you are talking about (e.g. you can't compare one clean thing and one dirty thing, it must be a dirty thing and a dirtier thing) and both things must be similar in some way (e.g. two cities, not a city and a car).

Useful phrases for doing the activity

“(Personally) I think...”/ “In my opinion,...”

“What do you think?”/ “Do you agree?”/ “Don't you think?”

“I think so too.”

“Really? I think...”/ “I would say that... is as... as..., but not... er/ but not more...”

“(I can see why you would say that, but) I would say that... isn't as... as...”

Ask about any words below which you don't understand, making a sentence about each one for the other people to agree or disagree with.

Comparative adjectives presentation

Look at the *Without Comparatives Version of the worksheet*. Together make comparatives of *just the ones in italics* (not the other words) until you can work out what the ones in each section have in common.

Mixed rules

Match the rules below the fold to the sections on the worksheet.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

irregular

more + one syllable

more + three or more syllables

more + two syllables

one syllable + double letter + er

one syllable + er

two syllables + er

-y changes to -ier

Check as a class or with the answer key. When there is more than one possible form, which is more common?

Play the same game again, but this time using more complex comparing forms like these:

More complex comparing forms to use

much/ a lot... than...

quite a lot/ substantially/ considerably... than...

a little/ slightly... than...

as... as...

not as... as...

not quite as... as...

not nearly as... as...

Comparative forms version

cleaner – dirtier

more dangerous/ riskier – *safer*

more powerful – *weaker*

more frequent – *rarer*

more common – *rarer*/ more unusual

more amusing/ funnier – *sadder*/ more tragic

more boring – *more fun*/ more interesting

more bland – spicier

more complex/ more complicated/ more difficult/ harder/ trickier – easier/ *simpler*

noisier – *quieter*

more cosmopolitan – *more local*

more energising/ more invigorating – *more tiring*

more fattening – *more slimming*

more fragile – more hard-wearing/ hardier/ sturdier

more likely – more unlikely

more pointless – *more worthwhile*

more relaxing – *more stressful*

more useful – *more useless*

more valuable – *more worthless*

more comforting – *more disturbing*

more convenient – *more inconvenient*

more disappointing – *more impressive*

more efficient – *more inefficient*

more important – *more trivial*

more motivating – *more demotivating*

more overrated – *more underrated*

more popular – *more unpopular*

more reliable – *more unreliable*

more satisfying – *more unsatisfying*

more typical – *more unusual*

more beautiful/ better looking/ more handsome/ *prettier* – *uglier*

more cheerful/ more life affirming – more depressing/ *gloomier*

more delicious/ *tastier*/ *yuckier* – more disgusting/ more revolting/ *yummier*

healthier – *unhealthier*

luckier – *unluckier*

more old-fashioned – more fashionable/ *trendier*

better – *worse*

better known/ more famous – more obscure/ more unknown

better value/ more reasonable – *worse value*

Without comparative forms version

clean – dirty
dangerous/ risky – *safe*
powerful – *weak*
frequent – *rare*
common – *rare/ unusual*

amusing/ funny – *sad/ tragic*

boring –*fun/ interesting*
bland – spicy

complex/ complicated/ difficult/ hard/ tricky – easy/ *simple*
noisy – *quiet*

cosmopolitan – *local*
energising/ invigorating – *tiring*
fattening – *slimming*
fragile – hard-wearing/ hardy/ sturdy
likely – unlikely
pointless – *worthwhile*
relaxing – *stressful*
useful – *useless*
valuable – *worthless*

comforting – *disturbing*
convenient – *inconvenient*
disappointing – *impressive*
efficient – *inefficient*
important – *trivial*
motivating – *demotivating*
overrated – *underrated*
popular – *unpopular*
reliable – *unreliable*
satisfying – *unsatisfying*
typical – *unusual*

beautiful/ good looking/ handsome/ *pretty* – *ugly*
cheerful/ life affirming – depressing/ *gloomy*
delicious/ *tasty/ yummy* – disgusting/ revolting/ *yucky*
healthy – *unhealthy*
lucky – *unlucky*
old-fashioned – fashionable/ *trendy*

good – *bad*
well known/ famous – obscure/ unknown
good value/ reasonable – *bad value*

Suggested answers**one syllable + er**

cleaner – dirtier
more dangerous/ riskier – *safer*
more powerful – *weaker*
more frequent – *rarer*
more common – *rarer*/ more unusual

one syllable + double letter + er

more amusing/ funnier – *sadder*/ more tragic

more + one syllable

more boring – *more fun*/ more interesting
more bland – spicier

two syllables + er

more complex/ more complicated/ more difficult/ harder/ trickier – easier/ *simpler*
noisier – *quieter*

more + two syllables

more cosmopolitan – *more local*
more energising/ more invigorating – *more tiring*
more fattening – *more slimming*
more fragile – more hard-wearing/ hardier/ sturdier
more likely – more unlikely
more pointless – *more worthwhile*
more relaxing – *more stressful*
more useful – *more useless*
more valuable – *more worthless*

more + three or more syllables

more accessible – *more inaccessible*
more comforting – *more disturbing*
more convenient – *more inconvenient*
more disappointing – *more impressive*
more efficient – *more inefficient*
more important – *more trivial*
more motivating – *more demotivating*
more overrated – *more underrated*
more popular – *more unpopular*
more reliable – *more unreliable*
more satisfying – *more unsatisfying*
more typical – *more unusual*

-y changes to -ier

more beautiful/ better looking/ more handsome/ *prettier* – *uglier*

more cheerful/ more life affirming – more depressing/ *gloomier*

more delicious/ tastier – more disgusting/ more revolting

drier – more humid

healthier – *unhealthier*

luckier – *unluckier*

more old-fashioned – more fashionable/ *trendier*

irregular

better – *worse*

better known/ more famous – more obscure/ more unknown

better value/ more reasonable – *worse value*

Test each other on comparative forms above by saying the non-comparative form.

Test each other on the comparative opposites above (divided by a dash –)

Test each other on the comparatives with similar meaning above (divided by a slash /)

Comparative adjectives freer speaking

Choose topics like those below and compare those things, this time also using the adverbs in the box. Your partner will then agree, disagree or partially disagree (with phrases like “I agree that it is... er, but I’d only say that is... er” or “I also think it is more..., but I’d go further and say that it is... more...”)

Useful phrases for comparing precisely			
... is	far/ much/ a lot considerably/ substantially quite a lot slightly/ a bit a tiny bit	...er more...	than...

Suggested things to compare

food from two countries
 two areas of this town or city
 two athletes (= two sportsmen or sportswomen)
 two books
 two buildings
 two cafés/ two café chains
 two cars/ two car brands
 two celebrities
 two diets
 two drinks
 two electronic items (e.g. two different smartphone models)
 two exercises/ two forms of exercise
 two foods
 two foreign languages
 two future events
 two historical places
 two hobbies
 two holiday activities
 two holiday resorts
 two hotels/ two hotel chains
 two investments
 two items of furniture
 two jobs/ working for two different companies
 two kinds of coffee
 two kinds of holiday (= vacation)
 two kinds of natural disaster
 two kinds of training
 two magazines
 two movies (e.g. two comedies or two action movies)/ two kinds of movies
 two news programmes
 two newspapers
 two nightspots
 two periods in history

two pets
two places to take foreign guests
two podcasts
two political parties
two politicians
two pop groups/ two rock groups
two pop stars/ two singers
two problems/ two difficulties
two pubs/ two pub chains
two radio programmes/ two radio stations
two recipes/ two dishes that you could cook
two restaurants/ two restaurant chains
two risks
two rural places
two school subjects
two shops/ two kinds of shop
two sightseeing spots
two skills
two songs/ two versions of a song
two sports (e.g. two winter sports or two danger sports)
two streets
two television series
two towns/ cities
two trends/ two changes
two views
two ways of learning English
two ways of relaxing
two ways of travelling/ two means of transport
two wild animals

Adverbs with comparative adjectives presentation

Without looking above, brainstorm words which could go before “more...” or “...er”.

Put the words below into order from the biggest difference top to the smallest difference bottom. Some are (basically) the same as so should go next to each other. Then compare your answers with the list in order above.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

Mixed adverbs with comparative adjectives

a bit
a lot
a tiny bit
considerably
far
much
quite a lot
slightly
substantially