

Comparative Adjectives Reversi Memory Games

Instructions for teachers

Choose which set of cards you want to use with your class (opposites or synonyms) and cut up one set per group of two to four students. Cut off and keep the left-hand column (with the grammar explanations), but don't cut between the two other columns – leave the opposites or synonyms connected to each other. Give out the cards and ask students to fold them so that there are synonyms or antonyms on each side, taking a quick look at both sides as they do so. It doesn't matter which side is up as they lay the folded cards on the table before they start playing the game.

To play the game, students must choose a card and guess what is on the other side, then turn over and check. They must get exactly what is on the other side, but if there is more than one option (divided by a slash) then just one of the options is enough (they don't need to say all the words that are written there). If they guess correctly, they can do the same with other cards, continuing until they make a mistake. If they guess something which isn't on the other side of the card, play passes to the next person. The next person can do the same cards as the previous person did, different cards, or (probably) a mix of the two kinds. Cards which were guessed correctly stay turned over, to be guessed in the opposite direction the next time.

There are three different ways of scoring the game:

- *Students choose any cards that they like each time, and the longest string of correct guesses in a row during the whole game (e.g. one player doing seven cards in a row before making a mistake) wins the game*
- *Students choose any cards that they like each time, and the total number of correct guesses over the whole game wins the game (added up together, with correct guesses of the same card also counting as more than one point, e.g. 23 correct guesses over the length of the game)*
- *Students lay the cards in a single column on the table to represent a ladder, and must start at the bottom of the ladder each and every time, with the person who first reaches the top or gets highest before the teacher stops the game being the winner*

If students get stuck, you can give them a minute or two to look at both sides of all the cards and/ or let them work together rather than competing (but with the same game rules).

After finishing the game, ask students to unfold the cards and put them into groups by each rule for making comparative adjectives, looking at just the words in italics (not the other words on the cards) as they categorise them. Then give them the descriptions in the left-hand column to match to each of those groups to help. Students check with an un-cut-up version of the worksheet, then test each other (orally) in pairs.

Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers
Opposites version

one syllable + er	<i>broader/ wider</i>	narrower
	<i>longer</i>	<i>shorter</i>
	more powerful/ <i>stronger</i>	<i>weaker</i>
	<i>higher/ taller</i>	<i>lower</i>
	<i>looser</i>	<i>tighter</i>
	<i>blunter</i>	more pointed/ <i>sharper</i>
	gentler/ <i>smoother</i>	<i>rougher</i>
one syllable + double letter + er	<i>bigger/ larger</i>	smaller
	cooler/ colder	<i>hotter/ warmer</i>
	thicker/ <i>fatter</i>	<i>thinner</i>
	drier	<i>wetter</i>
more + one syllable	more boring	<i>more fun/ more interesting</i>
	<i>more fake</i>	<i>more real</i>
	<i>more bored</i>	more excited/ more interested

two syllables + er	noisier	<i>quieter</i>
	more complicated/ more difficult/ harder/ trickier	<i>easier/ simpler</i>
more + two syllables	<i>more local</i>	more cosmopolitan/ more international
	more relaxing	<i>more stressful</i>
	<i>more careful</i>	<i>more careless</i>
	<i>more tiring</i>	more energising
	<i>more worthwhile</i>	<i>more pointless</i>
more + three or more syllables	cheaper	<i>more expensive</i>
	<i>more dangerous/ riskier</i>	safer
	<i>more personal/ more private</i>	more public
	more modern	<i>more traditional/ more old-fashioned</i>

-y changes to -ier	<i>earlier/ sooner</i>	later
	<i>happier</i>	<i>unhappier/ sadder</i>
	cleaner	<i>dirty</i>
	more serious	<i>sillier</i>
	<i>nastier</i>	nicer
	more beautiful/ better looking/ more handsome/ <i>prettier</i>	<i>uglier</i>
Irregular	<i>better</i>	<i>worse</i>
	closer/ nearer	farther/ <i>further</i>
	<i>elder/ older</i>	younger

Synonyms version
Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers

one syllable + er	<i>broader</i>	<i>wider</i>
	<i>faster</i>	<i>quicker/ speedier</i>
	<i>higher</i>	<i>taller</i>
	<i>neater</i>	<i>tidier</i>
	more powerful	<i>stronger</i>
one syllable + double letter + er	<i>hotter</i>	warmer
	<i>bigger</i>	larger/ bulkier
more + one syllable	more entertaining	<i>more fun</i>
	more confused	<i>more lost</i>
two syllables + er	<i>simpler</i>	easier
more + two syllables	<i>more tiring</i>	more exhausting
	<i>more afraid</i>	<i>more frightened/ more scared</i>
	kinder	<i>more caring</i>
	<i>more concerned</i>	<i>more nervous/ more worried</i>

more + three or more syllables	pricier	<i>more expensive</i>
	<i>more important</i>	<i>more significant</i>
	<i>more disgusting</i>	<i>more revolting</i>
	<i>more delicious</i>	tastier
	<i>more fashionable</i>	trendier
-y changes to -ier	<i>noisier</i>	louder
	richer	<i>wealthier/ more loaded</i>
	<i>angrier/ more irritated</i>	more annoyed
	more dangerous	<i>riskier</i>
	more amusing	<i>funnier</i>
Irregular	<i>further</i>	farther
	older	<i>elder</i>
	<i>better looking/ prettier</i>	more beautiful
	<i>better known</i>	more famous
	<i>better value</i>	more reasonable