

CEFR A2 · TEENS (11–16)

## Comparing Things: *bigger, faster, better!*

Which is bigger — an elephant or a mouse? Learn **comparatives**: compare two things with **-er** (bigger, faster) and **more** (more beautiful), plus the special words **better** and **worse**.

⌚ 45 minutes

📖 Comparatives

🔄 Comparing Things

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1 WARM-UP Think before you start

1. Which is bigger: a cat or a horse? Which is faster: a car or a bike?
2. Who is taller — you or your best friend?
3. Which is better for you: a phone or a book? Why?
4. Think of two cities. Which one is bigger? Which is more beautiful?

### 2 GRAMMAR FOCUS Comparatives — comparing two things

Short adjectives add **-er**; long adjectives (2+ syllables) use **more**. Always use **than** after the comparative!

SHORT +ER	adjective + er	+	than	=	taller than	/	faster than
LONG: MORE	more + adjective	+	than	=	more beautiful than		
IRREGULAR	good → better	·	bad → worse	·	far → further		

### 3 GRAMMAR IN ACTION Adjective → comparative

Green = short (+er). Pink = long (more). Purple = irregular.

big ↓ <b>bigger</b>	small ↓ <b>smaller</b>	fast ↓ <b>faster</b>	tall ↓ <b>taller</b>	old ↓ <b>older</b>	happy ↓ <b>happier</b>
beautiful ↓ <b>more beautiful</b>	expensive ↓ <b>more expensive</b>	interesting ↓ <b>more interesting</b>	good ↓ <b>better</b>	bad ↓ <b>worse</b>	far ↓ <b>further</b>

SPELLING RULE	EXAMPLE
Most short adjectives: + er	<b>fast → faster, old → older</b>
Ends in -e: + r	<b>nice → nicer, large → larger</b>
Consonant + y: y → ier	<b>happy → happier, easy → easier</b>
Short vowel + consonant: double it	<b>big → bigger, hot → hotter</b>
Long adjectives (2+ syllables): more	<b>more modern, more careful</b>

than    much (bigger)    a bit (taller)    better    worse    the same as    different from

### 4 KEY VOCABULARY Words you'll meet in the story

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<b>compare</b> <i>VERB</i>	to look at how two things differ or match	<i>Let's compare the two phones.</i>
<b>than</b> <i>CONJ.</i>	the word we use after a comparative	<i>A bus is bigger than a car.</i>
<b>expensive</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	costing a lot of money	<i>This phone is very expensive.</i>
<b>cheap</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	not expensive; low price	<i>The bus is cheap.</i>
<b>modern</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	new; from the present time	<i>She lives in a modern flat.</i>
<b>comfortable</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	nice and easy to use; relaxing	<i>This chair is very comfortable.</i>
<b>better</b> <i>COMP. OF GOOD</i>	more good	<i>This book is better than that one.</i>
<b>worse</b> <i>COMP. OF BAD</i>	more bad	<i>The weather is worse today.</i>
<b>crowded</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	full of people	<i>The city is very crowded.</i>
<b>quiet</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	with little noise; calm	<i>The village is quiet and peaceful.</i>

## Which Is Better? *two cousins compare their two very different homes*

Maya lives in a big city. Her cousin Omar lives in a small village. This summer, they visited each other — and they couldn't stop comparing! Read and look for the comparatives.

### Maya visits the village

In July, Maya took the train to visit Omar's village. “Wow,” she said when she arrived. “It's so **quiet** here! In my city, the streets are much **more crowded** than this. And the air is **cleaner** too!” Omar smiled. “Yes, the village is quieter and the air is fresher. But it's also **more boring**, I think. There's only one small shop!” Maya laughed. “In my city, the shops are **bigger** and there's more to do. But the city is also **more expensive** than the village.”

### Omar visits the city

In August, it was Omar's turn. He took the train to Maya's big city. His eyes were wide. “Everything is so **faster** here!” he said. “The trains are faster, the people walk faster, and the buildings are much **taller** than in my village!” Maya nodded. “Yes, the city is more **modern**. But is it **better**?” Omar thought for a moment. “It's more exciting,” he said, “but it's also **worse** for sleeping! Last night, I heard cars all night. The village is much quieter at night.”

### So — which is better?

One evening, the two cousins sat together and made a list. The city is bigger, faster, more modern, and more exciting. The village is quieter, cleaner, cheaper, and more relaxing. “You know,” said Maya, “the city isn't *better* than the village. And the village isn't *better* than the city. They're just **different**.” Omar agreed. “Exactly. I love visiting your **crowded** city — but I'm always happy to come home to my quiet village.”

### The best of both

Maya and Omar learned something important that summer. When we compare two things, one isn't always “**better**” and the other “**worse**.” Often they are simply different, and each one is good in its own way. A fast city and a quiet village, an exciting day and a relaxing one — we are lucky when we can enjoy both! So next time you compare two things, don't ask only “Which is better?” Ask also: “What is good about *each* one?”






**Editor's note:** Did you find all the comparatives? Short ones add *-er* (*bigger, faster, quieter*), long ones use *more* (*more modern, more exciting*), and two are irregular (*better, worse*). Compare your town with another place — use five comparatives!

**6 PRACTICE**  
**Fill in the blanks**

Write the comparative of the adjective in brackets. Short + -er, long use more, and don't forget than! (Write two words where you need more.)

- 1 An elephant is \_\_\_\_\_ than a mouse. (*big*)
- 2 A train is \_\_\_\_\_ than a bike. (*fast*)
- 3 This phone is \_\_\_\_\_ than that one. (*expensive*)
- 4 The village is \_\_\_\_\_ than the city. (*quiet*)
- 5 This book is \_\_\_\_\_ than that one. (*good*)
- 6 The weather today is \_\_\_\_\_ than yesterday. (*bad*)
- 7 My sister is \_\_\_\_\_ than me today. (*happy*)
- 8 A car is faster \_\_\_\_\_ a bike. (*joining word*)

**7 SPEAKING**  
**Which is better?**

-  A dog or a cat — which is a better pet? Why?
-  Summer or winter — which is better? Which is colder?
-  A big city or a small town — where would you live?
-  Books or films — which are more interesting?
-  Compare two famous people, animals, or places you know.

**EXAMPLE CONVERSATION**

- A:** I think a dog is a better pet than a cat.
- B:** Really? Why?
- A:** Dogs are friendlier and more fun. But cats are quieter and cleaner.
- B:** That's true. And cats are smaller, so they're easier in a flat!

**8 WRITING**  
**Compare two things (60–80 words)**

Compare two things you know well: two cities, two animals, two phones, or two sports. Use comparatives. Try to include:

- at least 4 comparatives
- at least one short adjective (-er) and one long one (more...)
- one irregular comparative (better or worse)
- use than at least twice

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## Check your understanding

1 Choose the comparative: "An elephant is \_\_\_\_\_ than a mouse."

A big

B bigger

C biggest

D more big

2 Which is correct for a long adjective?

A beautifuller

B more beautiful

C beautifuler

D most beautiful

3 What is the comparative of "good"?

A gooder

B more good

C better

D best

4 What is the comparative of "bad"?

A badder

B worse

C more bad

D worst

5 Which word do we use after a comparative?

A then

B that

C than

D as

6 Choose the correct sentence:

A A car is more fast than a bike.

B A car is faster than a bike.

C A car is fast than a bike.

D A car is faster then a bike.

7 What is the comparative of "happy"?

A happier

B more happy

C happier

D happiest

8 Choose the correct sentence:

A This film is more interesting than the book.

B This film is interestinger than the book.

C This film is more interesting then the book.

D This film is interesting than the book.

✓ Answer Key — for teachers

**Fill in the blanks:** 1. bigger 2. faster 3. more expensive 4. quieter 5. better 6. worse 7. happier 8. than

**Quiz:** 1. B 2. B 3. C 4. B 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. A