

# Comparative adjectives: superiority, inferiority and equality

## Introduction



Sam is **taller than** his sister.

## Definition and use

We use comparative adjectives of superiority, inferiority and equality to compare two things or people.

## Construction

### Superiority

One-syllable	adjective + 'er' + 'than' <b>colder than</b>	Sweden is <b>colder than</b> France.
Two-syllables and ending in a consonant and 'y'	adjective + 'er' + 'than' <b>busier than</b>	I'm <b>busier than</b> my boss.
Others with two syllables*	'more' + adjective + 'than' <b>more honest than</b>	Alain is <b>more honest than</b> Patricia.

<p><b>More than two syllables</b></p>	<p>'more' + adjective + 'than'</p> <p><b>more expensive than</b></p>	<p>Cars are <b>more expensive than</b> motorbikes.</p>
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**\*Note that** there are exceptions including some adjectives ending in 'er', 'le' and 'ow'.

For example:

This exercise is **simpler than** that one.  
 The roads here are **narrower than** the roads in the city.  
 My new office is **quieter than** my old one.

### Inferiority

<p><b>One-syllable</b></p>	<p>'not as' + adjective + 'as'</p>	<p>France <b>isn't as cold as</b> Sweden.</p>
<p><b>More than one syllable</b></p>	<p>1. 'not as' + adjective + 'as'</p> <p>2. 'less' + adjective + 'than'</p>	<p>My boss <b>isn't as busy as</b> me.              Alain <b>isn't as honest as</b> Patricia.              Motorbikes <b>aren't as expensive as</b> cars.</p> <p>My boss is <b>less busy than</b> me.              Alain is <b>less honest than</b> Patricia.              Motorbikes are <b>less expensive than</b> cars.</p>

### Note that

1. 'not...as...as...' is more common in conversation than 'less...than...' for both long and short adjectives.
2. It is possible to give information in more than one way. For example, the following groups of sentences have the same meaning:

<p>France <b>isn't as cold as</b> Sweden.</p> <p>France is <b>warmer than</b> Sweden.</p> <p>Sweden is <b>colder than</b> France.</p> <p>Sweden <b>isn't as warm as</b> France.</p>	<p>Motorbikes <b>aren't as expensive as</b> cars.</p> <p>Motorbikes are <b>less expensive than</b> cars.</p> <p>Cars are <b>more expensive than</b> motorbikes.</p> <p>Motorbikes are <b>cheaper than</b> cars.</p>
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**Equality**

<b>All adjectives</b>	<p>'as' + adjective + 'as'</p> <p><b>as cold as</b></p> <p><b>as busy as</b></p> <p><b>as honest as</b></p> <p><b>as expensive as</b></p>	<p>January is <b>as cold as</b> February.</p> <p>I'm <b>as busy as</b> my boss.</p> <p>She's <b>as honest as</b> him.</p> <p>The bus is <b>as expensive as</b> the train.</p>
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**Spelling rules when adding 'er'**

One vowel and one consonant - double and add 'er'	More than one vowel or consonant - add 'er'	Ends in 'e' - add 'r'	Change 'y' to 'i' and add 'er'
<p><b>big -&gt; bigger</b></p> <p><b>thin -&gt; thinner</b></p> <p><b>wet -&gt; wetter</b></p>	<p><b>steep -&gt; steeper</b></p> <p><b>rich -&gt; richer</b></p> <p><b>near -&gt; nearer</b></p>	<p><b>nice -&gt; nicer</b></p> <p><b>wide -&gt; wider</b></p> <p><b>close -&gt; closer</b></p>	<p><b>dry -&gt; drier</b></p> <p><b>pretty -&gt; prettier</b></p> <p><b>happy -&gt; happier</b></p>

**Pronouns**

We can use either subject pronoun + verb or object pronoun. For example:

Alain is **more honest than** Patricia.

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He's **more honest than she is**.

or

He's **more honest than her**.

## Examples



Simon is **younger than** Todd.



Janette's present is **bigger than** Holly's.



This box is **smaller and heavier than** the blue box.



Quality is **more important than** price.



The weather today is **better than** yesterday.



Your English is **worse than** your maths.



Jenny is **less polite than** her brother and sister.



The red apples are **less expensive than** the green.



Come and see me this afternoon - I'm **not as busy as** usual today.



This is great - it's **as warm as** a swimming pool.

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