Comparative adjectives

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' colder than	Sweden is colder than France.
Two-syllables and ending in a consonant and 'y'	adjective + change 'y' to 'i' + 'er' + 'than' busier than	I'm busier than my boss.
Others with two syllables*	'more' + adjective + 'than' more honest than	Alain is more honest than Patricia.

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More than two syllables	'more' + adjective + 'than'		
	more expensive than	Cars are more expensive than motorbikes.	

*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

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

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:

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

Equality

All adjectives	'as' + adjective + 'as'	
	as cold as	January is <mark>as</mark> cold <mark>as</mark> February.
	as busy as	I'm <mark>as</mark> busy <mark>as</mark> my boss.
	as honest as	She's as honest as him.
	as expensive as	The bus is as expensive as the train.

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'
big ->bigger	steep -> steeper	nice -> nicer	dry -> drier
thin -> thinner	rich -> richer	wide ->wider	pretty -> prettier
wet -> wetter	near -> nearer	close -> closer	happy -> happier

Pronouns

We can use either subject pronoun + verb <u>or</u> object pronoun. For example:

Alain is more honest than Patricia. = He's more honest than she is. or He's more honest than her.

Examples

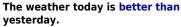


Simon is younger than Todd.



This box is smaller and heavier than the blue box.







Jenny is less polite than her brother and sister.



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



Janette's present is bigger than Holly's.



Quality is more important than price.



Your English is worse than your maths.



The red apples are less expensive than the green.



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





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