

GRAMMAR SUPPLEMENT

COMPARATIVE FORMS OF ADJECTIVES

1.1 USE

a) We use comparative adjectives to show **change** and / or make **comparisons**:

- This car is certainly **better**, but it's **more expensive**.
- I'm feeling **happier** now.
- We want a **bigger** garden.

b) When we compare one thing with another thing, we use **THAN**:

- Carla is **older than** Helen.
- Santiago is much **bigger than** Ovalle.
- Marcos is a **better** player **than** me.
- Fiction books are **more interesting than** textbooks for me.

1.2 FORM

a) Add **-er** to **1-syllable** adjectives:

- | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|--------|---|--------|
| · small | > | smaller | · slow | > | slower |
| · nice | > | nicer | · fast | > | faster |

If a 1-syllable adjective ends in **1 vowel + 1 consonant**, **double the last consonant**:

- | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--------|--------|---|---------|
| · big | > | bigger | · slim | > | slimmer |
| · sad | > | sadder | · wet | > | wetter |

b) Add **-ier** to **2-syllable** adjectives **ending in -y**:

- | | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| · happy | > | happier |
| · easy | > | easier |
| · rainy | > | rainier |

c) Use the word **more** if the adjective is **multi-syllabic**:

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|---------------|---|------------------|
| · boring | > | more boring | · expensive | > | more expensive |
| · beautiful | > | more beautiful | · interesting | > | more interesting |

d) **Irregular comparatives**:

- | | | |
|--------|---|-------------------|
| · good | > | better |
| · bad | > | worse |
| · far | > | further / farther |

1.3 Practice Exercise A

Write the comparative form of the adjective in the space in the chart.

BASE FORM	COMPARATIVE FORM
1. short	
2. enthusiastic	
3. peaceful	
4. angry	
5. responsible	
6. good	
7. bad	
8. red	

1.4 Practice Exercise B

Complete the space with the comparative form of the adjective in parentheses.

- Dogs are than rabbits. (intelligent)
- Tom is than Luís. (old)
- Russia is than El Salvador. (large)
- "Space War" is than "Contemplation Story". (exciting)
- 9 am is a time than 10 pm. (busy)
- Alicia is than her classmates. (ambitious)

1.5 Practice Exercise C

Put the words/phrases in order to create correct sentences.

- dogs / smaller / usually / cats / than / are
.....
- some / are / more / animals / in the evening / active
.....
- harder / thought / he / was / the project / than
.....
- last year / 25% / were / test results / better
.....
- Calama's / sunnier / is / Osorno's / much / climate / than
.....

1.6 Practice Exercise D

Use the adjectives below to complete the spaces in the sentences. Put the adjectives into the comparative form.

long	complicated	tall	expensive	far
high	bad	cheap	good	rainy

- Puerto Montt is than Santiago. You often need an umbrella there.
- The days in the summer are than in the winter.
- I feel today. I can go to class.
- These shoes were, but their quality is great, and I love how they look.
- I'm very sad that my old house looks now than it did 5 years ago.
- School subjects become with time.
- Ms. Howard's son is than he was last year.
- The other mall is on the other side of the city. It's much away.
- I'm really happy that avocados are than they were two months ago.
- Radiation levels were because of uranium deposits in the area.

1.7 Practice Exercise E

Write the opposite comparative adjective in the box

1. cheaper	<i>more expensive</i>
2. hotter	
3. better	
4. more difficult	
5. sadder	
6. shorter	
7. nearer	
8. smaller	
9. more boring	
10. slower	

1.8 Answer Key

Practice exercise A.

BASE FORM	COMPARATIVE FORM
1. short	shorter
2. enthusiastic	more enthusiastic
3. peaceful	more peaceful
4. angry	angrier
5. responsible	more responsible
6. good	better
7. bad	worse
8. red	redder

Practice exercise B.

- Dogs are more intelligent than rabbits. (intelligent)
- Tom is older than Luís. (old)
- Russia is larger than El Salvador. (large)
- "Space War" is more exciting than "Contemplation Story". (exciting)
- 9 am is a busier time than 10 pm. (busy)
- Alicia is more ambitious than her classmates. (ambitious)

Practice exercise C.

- Cats are usually smaller than dogs.
- Some animals are more active in the evening.
- The project was harder than he thought.
- The test results were 25% better last year.
- Calama's climate is much sunnier than Osorno's.

Practice exercise D.

- Puerto Montt is rainier than Santiago. You often need an umbrella there.
- The days in the summer are longer than in the winter.
- I feel better today. I can go to class.
- These shoes were more expensive, but their quality is great, and I love how they look.
- I'm very sad that my old house looks worse now than it did 5 years ago.
- School subjects become more complicated with time.
- Ms. Howard's son is taller than he was last year.
- The other mall is on the other side of the city. It's much farther / further away.
- I'm really happy that avocados are cheaper than they were two months ago.
- Uranium levels were higher because of uranium deposits in the area.

Practice exercise E.

1. cheaper	<i>more expensive</i>	6. shorter	longer
2. hotter	colder	7. nearer	further / farther
3. better	worse	8. smaller	bigger / larger
4. more difficult	easier	9. more boring	more interesting
5. sadder	happier	10. slower	faster