

## Grammar: Comparative adjectives

### Adjective + er

#### Adjectives of one syllable – fast, large, big

\* Add er at the end of the adjective: fast → faster

noun (or noun phrase)	verb	adjective + er + than	noun (or noun phrase)
A new computer	is	faster than	an old one

\* If the adjective ends with the letter e, only add r: large → larger

noun (or noun phrase)	verb	adjective + r + than	noun (or noun phrase)
A desktop	is	larger than	laptop

\* If the adjective ends with **vowel-consonant**, **double** the final consonant before adding **er**: big → bigger

noun (or noun phrase)	verb	adjective + consonant + er + than	noun (or noun phrase)
A desktop	is	bigger than	laptop

### not adjective + er

We normally use the opposite adjective instead of using not adjective + er. So for example we would not say;

An old computer is **not faster** than a new one.

We would either say;

A new computer is **faster** than an old one

or

An old computer is **slower** than a new one

## Adjectives of two syllables, ending in 'y' - heavy, dirty, ugly

\* Replace **y** with **i** then add **er**: heavier, dirtier, uglier

noun (or noun phrase)	verb	as adjective as	noun (or noun phrase)
A desktop	is	heavier than	a laptop
My screen	is	dirtier than	yours*

### not adjective + ier

We normally use the opposite **adjective instead** of using **not adjective + ier**.

So for example we would not say;

A laptop is **not heavier than** a desktop

We would either say;

A desktop is **heavier than** a laptop

or

A laptop is **lighter than** a desktop

## Adjectives of more than two syllables - expensive, powerful

noun (or noun phrase)	verb	more / less + adjective + than (three syllables or more)	noun (or noun phrase)
A laptop	is	<b>more expensive than</b>	a desktop
His laptop	is	<b>less powerful than</b>	my tablet

### not more / not less

We often use the opposite adjective instead of using **not more / not less**.

So for example we would not say;

A laptop is **not more expensive than** a desktop.

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<sup>1</sup> The word **yours** is a possessive pronoun and is used here to replace the phrase **your screen**. This is to avoid repeating the word **screen**.

We would either say;

A laptop is **more expensive than** a desktop.

or

A desktop is **cheaper than** a laptop.

### **Irregular comparative adjectives - good / bad**

To make comparisons with the adjectives **good** or **bad**, we do not add **er** but use the words **better** and **worse**.

<b>noun</b> (or noun phrase)	<b>verb</b>	<b>better / worse + than</b>	<b>noun</b> (or noun phrase)
Laptops	are	<b>better <i>than</i></b>	tablets
Tablets	are	<b>worse <i>than</i></b>	desktops