Comparative adjectives

We use **comparative**[**adjectives**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/node/1276)to show change or make comparisons:

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

We use *than*when we want to **compare one thing with another**:

*She is two years older****than****me.  
New York is much bigger****than****Boston.  
He is a better player****than****Ronaldo.  
France is a bigger country****than****Britain.*

**How to form comparative adjectives**

We usually add *–er*  to **one-syllable words** to make comparatives and :

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *old* | *older* |  |
| *long* | *longer* |  |

If an adjective **ends in *–e***, we add *–r*:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *nice* | *nicer* |  |
| *large* | *larger* |  |

If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *big* | *bigger* |  |
| *fat* | *fatter* |  |

If an adjective **ends in a consonant and *–y****,* we change *–y* to *–i*and add *–er*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *happy* | *happier* |  |
| *silly* | *sillier* |  |

We use *more* to make comparatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *careful* | *more careful* |  |
| *interesting* | *more interesting* | *mo* |

However, with **these common two-syllable adjectives**, you can **either** add *–er*/*–r* or use *more* :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *common cruel gentle handsome likely* | *narrow pleasant polite simple stupid* |

*He is certainly****handsomer****than his brother.  
His brother is handsome, but he is****more handsome****.*

The adjectives ***good***, ***bad*** and ***far*** have irregular comparatives:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *good* | *better* |  |
| *bad* | *worse* |  |
| *far* | *farther/further* |  |