

old/older expensive / more expensive

A



Older / heavier / more expensive are *comparative* forms.
The comparative is **-er (older)** or **more ... (more expensive)**.

B

older/heavier etc.

Short words (1 syllable) → **-er**:

old → **older** slow → **slower** cheap → **cheaper**
nice → **nicer** late → **later** big → **bigger**

Spelling (→ Appendix 5): big → **bigger** hot → **hotter** thin → **thinner**

Words ending in **-y** → **-ier**:

easy → **easier** heavy → **heavier** early → **earlier**

- Rome is **old**, but Athens is **older**. (*not* more old)
- Is it **cheaper** to go by car or by train? (*not* more cheap)
- Helen wants a **bigger** car.
- This coat is OK, but I think the other one is **nicer**.
- Don't take the bus. It's **easier** to take a taxi. (*not* more easy)

far → **further**:

- A: How far is it to the station? A mile?
- B: No, it's **further**. About two miles.

C

more ...

Long words (2/3/4 syllables) → **more ...** :

careful → **more careful** polite → **more polite**
expensive → **more expensive** interesting → **more interesting**

- You must be **more careful**.
- I don't like my job. I want to do something **more interesting**.
- Is it **more expensive** to go by car or by train?

D

good/well → **better** **bad** → **worse**

- The weather wasn't very **good** yesterday, but it's **better** today.
- 'Do you feel **better** today?' 'No, I feel **worse**.'
- Which is **worse** – a headache or a toothache?

Exercises

87.1 Look at the pictures and write the comparative (**older** / **more interesting** etc.).

<p>1 heavy</p>  <p>heavier</p>	<p>2 big</p> 	<p>3 slow</p>  <p>tortoise snail</p>
<p>4 expensive</p>  <p>£400 £600</p>	<p>5 high</p>  <p>4000 m 5000 m</p>	<p>6 dangerous</p>  <p>SLOW</p>

87.2 Write the comparative.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------------|--|
| 1 old | older | 6 good | |
| 2 strong | | 7 large | |
| 3 happy | | 8 serious | |
| 4 modern | | 9 pretty | |
| 5 important | | 10 crowded | |

87.3 Write the opposite.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|--|
| 1 younger | older | 4 better | |
| 2 colder | | 5 nearer | |
| 3 cheaper | | 6 easier | |

87.4 Complete the sentences. Use a comparative.

- Helen's car isn't very big. She wants a **bigger** one.
- My job isn't very interesting. I want to do something **more interesting**.
- You're not very tall. Your brother is
- David doesn't work very hard. I work
- My chair isn't very comfortable. Yours is
- Your idea isn't very good. My idea is
- These flowers aren't very nice. The blue ones are
- My bag isn't very heavy. Your bag is
- I'm not very interested in art. I'm in history.
- It isn't very warm today. It was yesterday.
- These tomatoes don't taste very good. The other ones tasted
- Britain isn't very big. France is
- London isn't very beautiful. Paris is
- This knife isn't very sharp. Have you got a one?
- People today aren't very polite. In the past they were
- The weather isn't too bad today. Often it is much