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[Adjectives](#) can compare two or more things. When we make these comparisons, we use comparative and [superlative](#) forms of adjectives and their structures.

Comparative adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify: *larger, smaller, faster, higher*.

One-syllable adjectives

- England is **smaller** than Australia.
- Australia is **larger / bigger** than England.

1. Usually, we add '**-er**' – so '*small*' becomes '*smaller*'.
2. If the adjective ends in '**e**', we just add '**-r**' – so '*large*' becomes '*larger*'.
3. If the adjective has a '*consonant-vowel-consonant*' pattern, we *double* the final consonant and then add '**-er**'. '*Big*' becomes '*bigger*' (and '*hot*' becomes '*hotter*').

Longer adjectives

- – José: Spanish is **easier** than Arabic.
- – Ahmed: No! Spanish is **more difficult** than Arabic!

1. With two-syllable adjectives where the second syllable is unstressed, we add **'-er'** – so *'small'* becomes *'smaller'*.
2. With two-syllable adjectives ending in **'y'**, there is a spelling change. *'Easy'* becomes *'easier'* (and *'busy'* becomes *'busier'*).
3. With two-syllable adjectives ending in **'-ful'**, **'-less'** and **'-ing'**, two-syllable adjectives where the second syllable is stressed, and longer adjectives, we use **[more + base adjective]** – so *'boring'* becomes *'more boring'* (and *'interesting'* becomes *'more interesting'*).

We can also use **[less + base adjective]**:

- Arabic is ***less difficult*** than Spanish!

Irregular adjectives

Some common adjectives have *irregular* comparative forms:

'good' becomes *'better'*, *'bad'* becomes *'worse'* and *'far'* becomes *'further'* or *'farther'*.

Here's a useful video from EngVid explaining how to form comparative adjectives:

Comparative structures

In English, there are some structures with different types of comparative adjectives that can be used to compare things or ideas with various meaning.

Big differences

[much / a lot / far + comparative adjective]

- Australia is ***much bigger*** than England.
- Australia is ***a lot bigger*** than England.
- Australia is ***far bigger*** than England.

(We don't say *'Australia is very bigger than England'*.)

Small differences

[a bit / slightly / a little (bit) + comparative adjective]

- Portugal is **a bit bigger** than Austria.
- Portugal is **slightly bigger** than Austria.
- Portugal is **a little (bit) bigger** than Austria.

(Not) as... as...

To compare two things, we can also use:

[as + adjective + as] or [not as + adjective + as]

- England is **not as big as** Australia. (This means the same thing as 'Australia is bigger than England'.)

We use the *positive* form to say that two things are *equal*:

- Today is **as hot as** yesterday.
- (The two days were the same temperature.)

(Not) the same as... / Different from / to...

- Life in England is **not the same as** life in Australia. (Life in England is *different from* / *to* life in Australia).

Like / As

We can use 'like' to talk about things which are *similar* or the same:

- It's raining again. I hate weather **like** this.
- My sisters are both teachers **like** me.
- He can swim **like** a fish.

We use **[like + noun / pronoun]**. We can't use 'as' in this way:

- I hate weather ~~as~~ this.
- My sisters are both teachers ~~as~~ me.
- He can swim ~~as~~ a fish.

Sometimes we can use either 'like' or 'as':

- *Everything went just **as** I had planned.*
- *Everything went just **like** I had planned.*

We use [**as + subject + verb**].

More and more...

We can use 'double comparatives' to talk about *changes*:

- *I must stop eating so much chocolate. I'm getting **fatter and fatter**.*
- *Apartments in the city center have become **more and more expensive**.*

The ... the ...

We can also use comparatives to talk about things which *change together*:

- ***The hotter** the weather (is), **the less energetic** I feel.*
- ***The more** you practise, **the easier** it is.*

We use [**the + comparative + subject + verb**].

Watch this video from Master IELTS about different comparative structures:

See also:

[Superlative Adjectives](#)