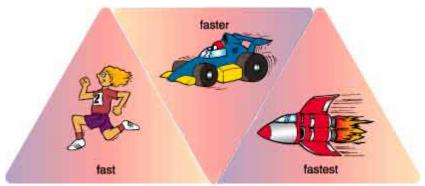


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Adverbs, like <u>adjectives</u>, can have *comparative forms* to show how differently things happen.



via https://www.quotemaster.org/Superlatives

Comparative adverbs come *after* the verb they modify in a sentence.

- Could you speak more quietly, please?
- It's Sunday, so Pete can get up **later**.
- Jack drives **better** than his brother.

There are *three ways* in which the comparative adverbs are formed, depending on the *spelling* of the base adverb.

Adverbs ending in '-ly'

To make comparative forms of most adverbs, use **[more or less + adverb (...than)]**:

- People can cycle **more safely** on special cycling roads.
- You should prepare for your exams **more seriously** than you do now.
- Tommy did his homework **less accurately** than Mary.
- Jacks talks to people **less politely** than Ben.



Adverbs with the same form as an adjective

Some short adverbs, like 'early', 'fast', 'slow', 'hard', 'high', 'long', have comparative forms of adjectives with '-er' at the end:

- Turtles move slower than hedgehogs.
- I came to the office **earlier** than my colleagues.
- Timothy always runs **faster** than his friends.
- Kate works harder than you, so please be **more friendly** to her.

Irregular comparatives

Some common adverbs have irregular comparatives that we just have to learn:

- $good \rightarrow well \rightarrow I$ can cook **better** than you.
- $bad \rightarrow badly \rightarrow Sally sings$ **worse** than her sister Emily.

Intensifiers and mitigators

We use these words and phrases as intensifiers with these patterns:

much - far - a lot - quite a lot - a great deal - a good deal - a good bit - a fair bit

• I forget things **much more ofte**n nowadays.

We use these words and phrases as mitigators:

a bit - just a bit - a little - a little bit - just a little bit - slightly

• She began to speak a bit more quickly.

In this video from MadKat English, you can learn about the basics of comparative adverbs and even test your knowledge:

See also:

Adverbs of Manner



Superlative Adverbs