



Exploring with comparative adjectives

CAPS: Grade 4, Term 3



Language Structures & Conventions

Builds on understanding and use of comparative adjectives

Note



We already know that adjectives describe nouns.

We use comparative adjectives to compare one noun to another.

We can use 'than' to compare one noun to another. If the adjective has one or two syllables in it, add 'er' to the adjective of comparison.

Note: If the adjective already ends in an -e, just add an 'r'. E.g. safe – safer.

Example

Themba runs **faster** **than** his friend.

Themba's friend runs fast. However, Themba runs faster.

If an adjective ends in a consonant followed by a 'y', change the 'y' to an 'i', and add -er.

Example

Lerato's school bag is **heavy**; but Kelly's bag is **heavier**.



If an adjective has a short vowel-sound ending in one consonant, double the consonant before adding -er.

Example

Did you know: An African elephant is **bigger** than a rhinoceros?

Diagram illustrating the formation of the comparative adjective 'bigger':
 - 'big' is the base adjective (adj).
 - The consonant 'g' is doubled (double the consonant).
 - The suffix '-er' is added (add -er).
 Result: bigger

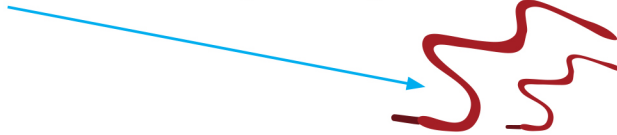


Activity 1

Help Themba complete the following sentences by filling in the missing comparative adjectives. Use the adjectives found in the brackets to create correctly spelt comparative adjectives.

Example

This piece of string is **longer** than that one. (long)



- ① The soccer ball is _____ than it was at the beginning of the match. (dirty)
- ② Today is _____ than yesterday. (hot)
- ③ Herbs from your garden are _____ than those at the shops. (fresh)
- ④ Her hair is _____ than mine. (curly)
- ⑤ The children went home _____ than they did yesterday. (late)
- ⑥ Mark ran _____ than Thembo. (fast)
- ⑦ We woke up _____ than they did this morning. (early)
- ⑧ The children will go home _____ than they did yesterday. (soon)
- ⑨ That elephant is _____ than the lion. (big)
- ⑩ The tortoise is _____ than the rabbit (slow)
- ⑪ The mouse is _____ than the cat. (small)



Activity 2

Compare the items by choosing the appropriate comparative adjectives from the word well. The first one has been done for you.

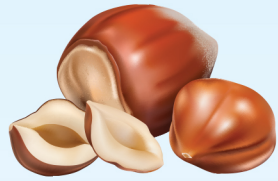
fewer crunchier smaller redder ~~brighter~~

① A  is brighter than candle light.

② A  is _____ than a 

③ There are _____ cookies in the packet than there are outside.



④  are _____ than bananas.

⑤ The first paper bag is _____ than the second.



Teacher Tip



A list of adjectives and their comparative adjectives can be found on this website:

<http://www.k12reader.com/term/comparative-adjectives/>

As an extension, teach the pupils that adjectives with three or more syllables have a different rule: just add the word 'more' before the adjective. For example, 'This flower is more beau-ti-ful (three syllables) than that one.'

You can also introduce irregular adjectives and the superlative adjective by looking at this website: http://www.grammar-world.com/adjective/list_of_comparison_of_adjectives

