

# 71 Comparative adjectives

1 Look at the way we compare things:



*The Plaza Hotel is cheaper than the Excelsior.  
The Excelsior Hotel is bigger than the Plaza.  
The Excelsior is more expensive than the Plaza.  
The Plaza Hotel is smaller than the Excelsior.*

2 Cheaper and more expensive are comparative adjectives. We form them like this:

▶ short adjectives (one syllable):

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE
old	older
long	longer
nice	nicer
new	newer
slow	slower
fat	fatter
hot	hotter
big	bigger

▶ long adjectives (two syllables or more):

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE
famous	more famous
difficult	more difficult
careful	more careful
expensive	more expensive

▶ adjectives ending with -y:

happy	happier
hungry	hungrier

▶ irregular adjectives:

good	better
bad	worse

(For more information, see Appendix 4, page 245)

3 To compare things, we use a comparative adjective + **than**:

*Tom is richer than Paul.*

*Paris is more beautiful than London.*

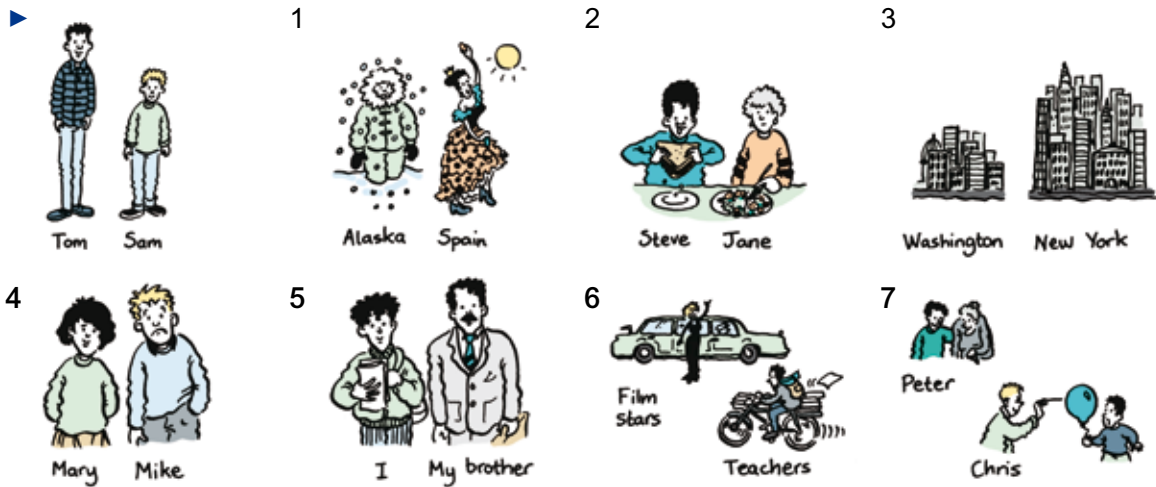
*My new car is better than my old one.*

## Practice

A Write the comparative form of these adjectives.

- |              |                     |              |       |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-------|
| ▶ cold       | <i>colder</i> ..... | 13 long      | ..... |
| 1 big        | .....               | 14 hungry    | ..... |
| 2 careful    | .....               | 15 nice      | ..... |
| 3 expensive  | .....               | 16 happy     | ..... |
| 4 good       | .....               | 17 difficult | ..... |
| 5 fat        | .....               | 18 old       | ..... |
| 6 famous     | .....               | 19 beautiful | ..... |
| 7 new        | .....               | 20 friendly  | ..... |
| 8 modern     | .....               | 21 hot       | ..... |
| 9 young      | .....               | 22 wonderful | ..... |
| 10 cheap     | .....               | 23 bad       | ..... |
| 11 delicious | .....               | 24 small     | ..... |
| 12 rich      | .....               | 25 sad       | ..... |

**B** Write comparative sentences about the pictures using *than* and the words in brackets ( ). Use the Present Simple.



- ▶ (be/tall)                      *Tom is taller than Sam.* .....
- 1 (be/cold)                      .....
- 2 (be/hungry)                      .....
- 3 (be/small)                      .....
- 4 (be/happy)                      .....
- 5 (be/young)                      .....
- 6 (be/rich)                      .....
- 7 (be/friendly)                      .....

**C** Look at the information about two boats, the Queen Anne and the King John.

BOATS	LENGTH	AREA	TOP SPEED	YEAR MADE	PRICE
Queen Anne	14 metres	40 metres <sup>2</sup>	35 knots	2005	£9,000
King John	9 metres	23 metres <sup>2</sup>	30 knots	1997	£3,500

Now put words from the box in the sentences.

King John (x2)	<del>bigger</del>	slower	is	than
Queen Anne (x2)	longer	expensive	more	

- ▶ The Queen Anne is *bigger*..... than the King John.
- 1 The King John is smaller ..... the Queen Anne.
- 2 The Queen Anne is ..... modern than the King John.
- 3 The King John ..... older than the Queen Anne.
- 4 The ..... is faster than the .....
- 5 The Queen Anne is more ..... than the King John.
- 6 The King John is ..... than the Queen Anne.
- 7 The ..... is cheaper than the .....
- 8 The Queen Anne is ..... than the King John.