

The comparative and Superlative Degrees of Adjectives and Adverbs

Oxygen is lighter than carbon dioxide, but hydrogen is the lightest. Iron is a good conductor of heat, aluminum is a better conductor than iron. Copper is the best conductor.

Sound travels quickly in a gas . It travels much more quickly in a liquid and most quickly in a solid.

has form	comparative	superlative
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1- All one-syllable adverbs

short	shorter than	the shortest	and adjectives.
small	smaller than	the smallest	
fast	faster than	the fastest	

2- Some two-syllable adjectives.

narrow	narrower than	the narrowest
easy	easier than	the easiest

3- Most two -- syllable adjectives and adverbs and all adverbs and adjectives of three or

more syllables form their comparatives with (more), and the superlatives with (most) e.g.

careful	more careful than	the most careful
rapidly	more rapidly than	the most rapidly

Exception

good	better than	the best
bad	worse than	the worst
far	further than	the furthest
	farther than	the farthest
little	less than	the least
many	more	the most
much	=	=
well	better than	the best

Notes

1- The comparative degree of both adjectives and adverbs can be preceded by one of the words:

(very) much; (just) a little ; rather ; far; still.

For example: Some people believe that light cars stop car more easily than heavy ones.

2- Notice such expressions as: less and less; smaller and smaller.

Exercises

1- Complete each sentence with the correct degree of comparison of the word in parentheses:

1- Objects weigh (little) in water than they do in air.

2- Hydrogen is the (light) of all substances.

3- Gas molecules move much (fast) than those of a solid.

4- The (small) part of an element is called the atom.

5- A woolen coat is a little (expensive) than a cotton one .

6- Everyone has noticed that wet clothes feel (cold) .

7- Because ice is (little) dense than water, it floats on water.

8- Water has the (high) specific heat of all substances .

2- complete these sentences with the correct form and the correct degree of comparison of the words in parentheses:

1- Hard rocks are eaten away much (slow) than soft ones.

2- Some people believe that a heavy car stops much (quick) than a light car.

3- We cannot (easy) decide what is the (effect) factor in the development of a particular soil.

4- A steam turbine is one of the (efficient) engines.

5- These substances are (chemistry) the same as those this rock consists of.

6- The alloy in that box is (little) affected by temperature than other types.

7- He operates this machine far (accurate) than he does a drill.

8- Many years ago, people knew much (few) types of matter than does a modern chemist.

3- Make sentences using the expressions listed below . Say that one of the nouns has more of the quality than the other:

Noun	Noun	Quality
1- a thermostat control.	a switch	efficient for current
2- asbestos	rubber	good for insulating heat.
3- rubber	plastics	widely.
4- Tom	John	hardworking.
5- sound	light	slowly.
6- X-rays	penicillin	efficient in the treatment of some diseases.
7- transistors	valves	safe to operate.
8- uranium things of.	steel	dangerous to make
9- a small car	a lorry	many cylinders.