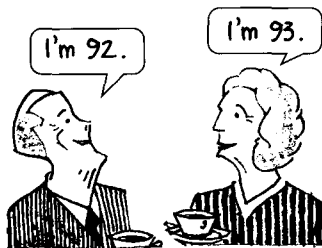
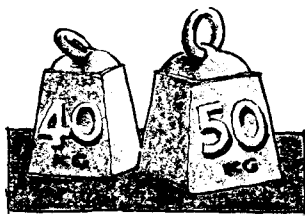


A



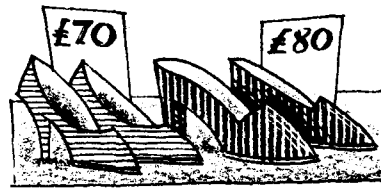
old

older



heavy

heavier



expensive

more expensive

**Older / heavier / more expensive** are *comparative* forms.  
The comparative is **-er** (**older**) or **more ...** (**more expensive**).

B

**-er** (**older/heavier etc.**)

Short words (1 syllable) → **-er**:

**old** → **older**

**slow** → **slower**

**cheap** → **cheaper**

**nice** → **nicer**

**late** → **later**

**big** → **bigger**

Spelling (⇒ Appendix 5): **big** → **bigger**    **hot** → **hotter**    **thin** → **thinner**

Words ending in **-y** → **-ier**:

**easy** → **easier**

**heavy** → **heavier**

**early** → **earlier**

86.2

- Rome is **old** but Athens is **older**. (*not* 'more old')
- Is it **cheaper** to go by car or by train? (*not* 'more cheap')
- Helen wants a **bigger** car.
- This coat is OK but I think the other one is **nicer**.
- Don't write a letter. It's **easier** to phone. (*not* 'more easy')

86.3

**far** → **further**:

- 'How far is it to the station? A mile?' 'No, it's **further**. About two miles.'

C

**more ...**

Long words (2/3/4 syllables) → **more ...** :

**careful** → **more careful**

**polite** → **more polite**

**expensive** → **more expensive**

**interesting** → **more interesting**

86.4

- You must be **more careful**.
- I don't like my job. I want to do something **more interesting**.
- Is it **more expensive** to go by car or by train?

D

**good/well** → **better**    **bad** → **worse**

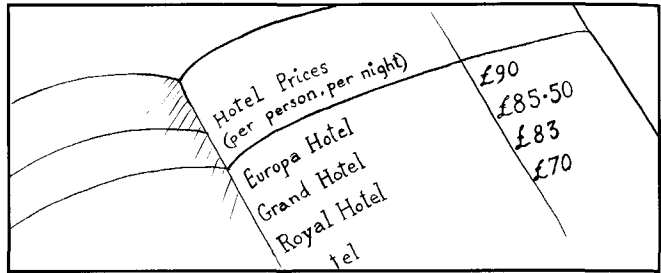
- The weather wasn't very **good** yesterday but it's **better** today.
- 'Do you feel **better** today?' 'No, I feel **worse**.'
- Which is **worse** – a headache or a toothache?

# older than ... more expensive than ...

A



She's **taller than** him.



The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** the Grand.

We use **than** after comparatives (**older than ... / more expensive than ... etc.**):

- Athens is **older than** Rome.
- Are oranges **more expensive than** bananas?
- It's **easier** to phone **than** to write a letter.
- 'How are you today?' 'Not bad. **Better than** yesterday.'
- The restaurant is **more crowded than** usual.

B

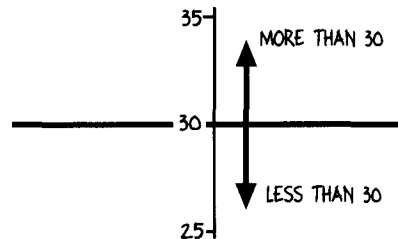
We say: than **me** / than **him** / than **her** / than **us** / than **them**. You can say:

- I can run faster **than him**. or I can run faster **than he can**.
- You are a better singer **than me**. or You are a better singer **than I am**.
- I got up earlier **than her**. or I got up earlier **than she did**.

C

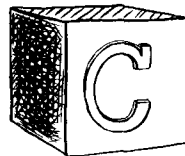
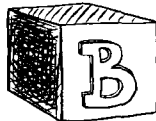
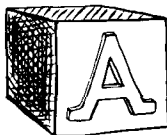
**more/less than ...**

- A: How much did your shoes cost? £30?
- B: No, **more than** that. (= **more than** £30)
- The film was very short – **less than** an hour.
- They've got **more money than** they need.
- You go out **more than** me.



D

**a bit older / much older etc.**



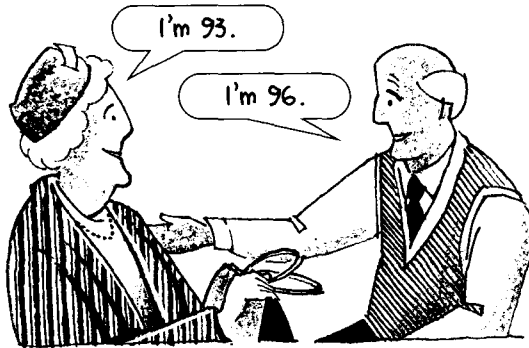
Box A is **a bit bigger** than Box B.

Box C is **much bigger** than Box D.

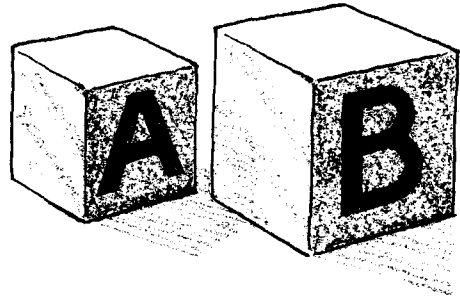
a bit much	bigger	than ...
	older	
better		
more difficult		
more expensive		

- Canada is **much bigger** than France.
- Jill is **a bit older** than Gary – she's 25 and he's 24½.
- The hotel was **much more expensive** than I expected.
- You go out **much more** than me.

**A** not as ... as



She's old but she's **not as old as** he is.



Box A isn't as big as Box B.

- Rome is **not as old as** Athens. (= Athens is **older**)
- The Grand Hotel isn't as **expensive as** the Europa. (= the Europa is **more expensive**)
- I don't play tennis **as often as** you. (= you play **more often**)
- The weather is better than it was yesterday. It isn't as **cold**. (= as cold as it was **yesterday**)

88.2

**B** not as much as ... / not as many as ...

- I haven't got **as much money as** you. (= you've got **more money**)
- I don't know **as many people as** you. (= you know **more people**)
- I don't go out **as much as** you. (= you go out **more**)

**C** Compare **not as ... as** and **than**:

- Rome is **not as old as** Athens.  
Athens is **older than** Rome. (*not 'older as Rome'*)
- Tennis isn't **as popular as** football.  
Football is **more popular than** tennis.
- I don't go out **as much as** you.  
You go out **more than** me.

88.3

**D** We say: as **me** / as **him** / as **her** *etc.* You can say:

- She's not as old **as him**. *or* She's not as old **as he is**.
- You don't work as hard **as me**. *or* You don't work as hard **as I do**.

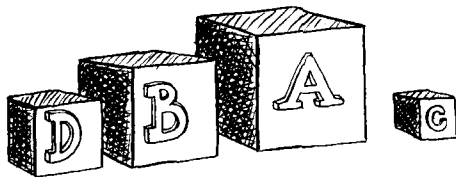
**E** We say **the same as ...** :

- The weather today is **the same as** yesterday.
- My hair is **the same colour as** yours.
- I arrived at **the same time as** Tim.

88.4

# the oldest the most expensive

A



- Box A is **bigger than** Box B.
- Box A is **bigger than** all the other boxes.
- Box A is **the biggest** box.

Europa Hotel	£95	Grosvenor	£60
Grand Hotel	£85.50	Bennetts	£58
Royal	£85	Carlton	£55
Astoria	£70	Star	£50
Palace	£65	Station	£45

- The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** the Grand.
- The Europa Hotel is **more expensive than** all the other hotels in the town.
- The Europa Hotel is **the most expensive** hotel in the town.

Bigger / older / **more** expensive *etc.* are *comparative* forms (⇒ Unit 86).  
**Biggest** / **oldest** / **most** expensive *etc.* are *superlative* forms.

B

The superlative form is **-est (oldest)** or **most ... (most expensive)**:

Short words ( <b>old/cheap/nice</b> <i>etc.</i> ) → <b>the -est</b> :		
<b>old</b> → <b>the oldest</b>	<b>cheap</b> → <b>the cheapest</b>	<b>nice</b> → <b>the nicest</b>
but <b>good</b> → <b>the best</b>	<b>bad</b> → <b>the worst</b>	
Spelling (⇒ Appendix 5): <b>big</b> → <b>the biggest</b> <b>hot</b> → <b>the hottest</b>		
Words ending in <b>-y (easy/heavy</b> <i>etc.</i> ) → <b>the -iest</b> :		
<b>easy</b> → <b>the easiest</b>	<b>heavy</b> → <b>the heaviest</b>	<b>pretty</b> → <b>the prettiest</b>
Long words ( <b>careful/expensive/interesting</b> <i>etc.</i> ) → <b>the most ...</b> :		
<b>careful</b> → <b>the most careful</b>	<b>interesting</b> → <b>the most interesting</b>	

C

We say: **the oldest ... / the most expensive ...** *etc.* (with **the**):

- The church is very old. It's **the oldest** building in the town.  
(= it is **older than** all the other buildings)
- What is **the longest** river in the world?
- Money is important but it isn't **the most important** thing in life.
- Excuse me, where is **the nearest** bank?

D

You can use **the oldest / the best / the most expensive** *etc.* *without* a noun:

- Ken is a good player but he isn't **the best** in the team.  
(**the best** = the best player)

E

superlative + **I've ever ... / you've ever ...** *etc.*

- The film was very bad. I think it's **the worst** film **I've ever seen**.
- What is **the most unusual** thing **you've ever done**?