Comparative adjectives

1. Look at the way we compare things:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{The Plaza Hotel is cheaper than the Excelsior.} \\
\text{The Excelsior Hotel is bigger than the Plaza.} \\
\text{The Excelsior is more expensive than the Plaza.} \\
\text{The Plaza Hotel is smaller than the Excelsior.}
\end{align*}
\]

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

- short adjectives (one syllable):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>old</td>
<td>older</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>long</td>
<td>longer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nice</td>
<td>nicer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new</td>
<td>newer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slow</td>
<td>slower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fat</td>
<td>fatter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hot</td>
<td>hotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>big</td>
<td>bigger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- long adjectives (two syllables or more):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>COMPARATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>famous</td>
<td>more famous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>difficult</td>
<td>more difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>careful</td>
<td>more careful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expensive</td>
<td>more expensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- adjectives ending with -y:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAPPINESS</th>
<th>HAPPIER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hungry</td>
<td>hungrier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- irregular adjectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOOD</th>
<th>BETTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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
- 1 big
- 2 careful
- 3 expensive
- 4 good
- 5 fat
- 6 famous
- 7 new
- 8 modern
- 9 young
- 10 cheap
- 11 delicious
- 12 rich
- 13 long
- 14 hungry
- 15 nice
- 16 happy
- 17 difficult
- 18 old
- 19 beautiful
- 20 friendly
- 21 hot
- 22 wonderful
- 23 bad
- 24 small
- 25 sad
B Write comparative sentences about the pictures using than and the words in brackets ( ). Use the Present Simple.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOATS</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>TOP SPEED</th>
<th>YEAR MADE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne</td>
<td>14 m</td>
<td>40 m²</td>
<td>35 knots</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King John</td>
<td>9 m</td>
<td>23 m²</td>
<td>30 knots</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>£3,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now put words from the box in the sentences.

King John (x2) bigger slower is than
Queen Anne (x2) longer expensive more

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.