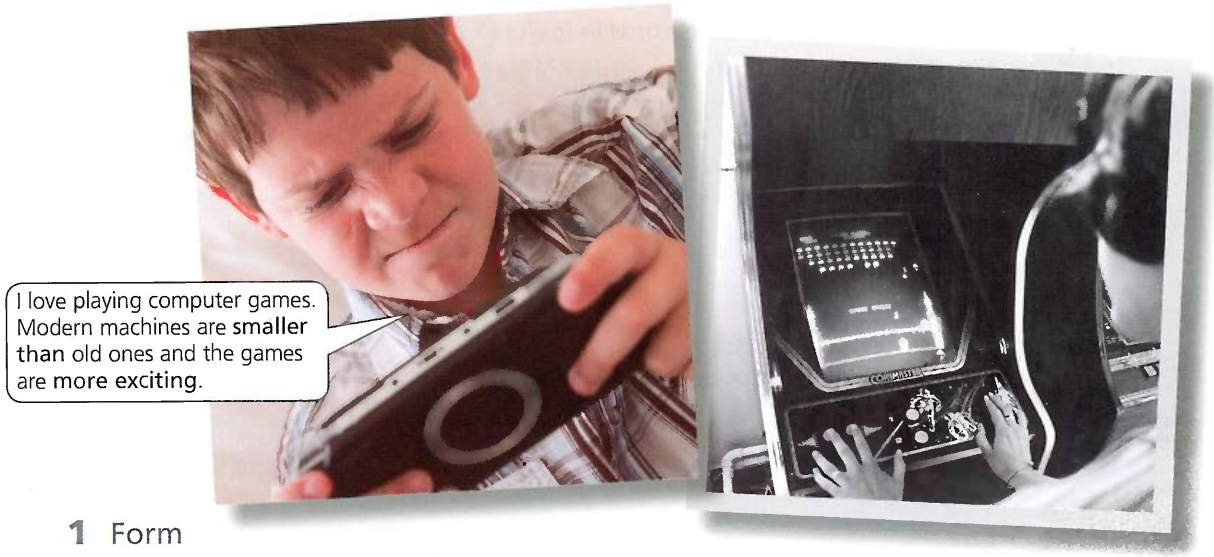
29 Comparative adjectives (1)



1 Form

To make comparative adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	→	COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE
most short adjectives (1 syllable)	add *-er*	*small → smaller, young → younger, short → shorter, new → newer*
adjectives that end in -e	add *-r*	*late → later, nice → nicer, wide → wider*
adjectives that end in vowel + consonant, e.g. *-ig, -at, -ot, -in*	add another consonant + *-er*	*big → bigger, fat → fatter, hot → hotter, thin → thinner*
adjectives that end in *-y*	change *y* to *i* and add *-er*	*dry → drier, easy → easier, friendly → friendlier*

For most adjectives with two syllables we use *more* + adjective:
*This new computer is **more useful** than my old one.*
*My mobile is **more modern** than Emily's.*

For adjectives with three or four syllables we always use *more* + adjective:
*Modern computer games are **more exciting**. Gold is **more expensive** than silver.*

⚠ We don't add *-er* to these adjectives.
✗ ~~*Mobile phones are usefuller than cameras.*~~ ✓ *Mobile phones are **more useful** than cameras.*

⚠ We don't use *more* with an adjective that is already comparative:
✗ ~~*Charlotte is more taller than Susie.*~~ ✓ *Charlotte is **taller** than Susie.*

Pronunciation ➤ 1.07

2 Use

We use comparative adjectives when we compare two people/things.

⚠ We usually use *than* after comparative adjectives:
✓ *Modern machines are **smaller than** old ones.*
✗ ~~*Modern machines are smaller old ones.*~~ ✗ ~~*Modern machines are smaller of old ones.*~~

⚠ We use *me, her*, etc., not *I, she*, etc. after *than*:
Maria is taller than Anna. ✗ ~~*Maria is taller than she.*~~ ✓ *Maria is taller than **her**.*

But we can use *I, he, she*, etc. if we put *am/is/are* after the subject pronoun:
*Maria is taller than **she is**.*