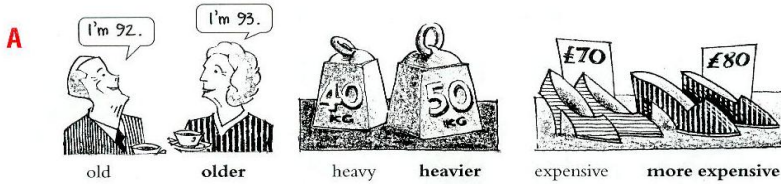


old/older expensive/more expensive



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

- 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')

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

- 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?

5.2 Write the comparative.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 old <u>older</u> | 6 good |
| 2 strong | 7 large |
| 3 happy | 8 serious |
| 4 modern | 9 pretty |
| 5 important | 10 crowded |

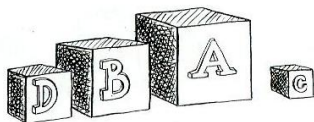
5.3 Write the opposite.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1 younger <u>older</u> | 4 better |
| 2 colder | 5 nearer |
| 3 cheaper | 6 easier |

5.4 Complete the sentences. Use a comparative.

- Helen's car isn't very big. She wants a bigger one.
- My job isn't very interesting. I want to do something more interesting.
- You're not very tall. Your brother is
- David doesn't work very hard. I work
- My chair isn't very comfortable. Yours is
- Your plan isn't very good. My plan is
- These flowers aren't very nice. The blue ones are
- My bag isn't very heavy. Your bag is
- I'm not very interested in art. I'm in history.
- It isn't very warm today. It was yesterday.
- These tomatoes don't taste very good. The other ones tasted
- Britain isn't very big. France is
- London isn't very beautiful. Paris is
- This knife isn't very sharp. Have you got a one?
- People today aren't very polite. In the past they were

A



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

Box A is **bigger than** all the other boxes.

Box A is **the biggest** box.

Bigger / older / more expensive etc. are comparative forms (⇒ Unit 86).

Biggest / oldest / most expensive etc. are superlative forms.

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.

B

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

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

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?

Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (**the oldest** etc.).

- 1 This building is very old. It's the oldest building in the town.
- 2 It was a very happy day. It was of my life.
- 3 It's a very good film. It's I've ever seen.
- 4 She's a very popular singer. She's in the country.
- 5 It was a very bad mistake. It was I've ever made.
- 6 It's a very pretty village. It's I've ever seen.
- 7 It was a very cold day. It was of the year.
- 8 He's a very boring person. He's I've ever met.

Write sentences with a superlative (**the longest** etc.).

Sydney	Brazil
Everest	Jupiter
Alaska	the Nile

large
long
high

country	planet
city	state
river	mountain

the USA	the solar system
Africa	South America
the world	Australia

- 1 Sydney is the largest city in Australia.
- 2 Everest
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6