

Lesson:

Comparing Things (Comparative Adjectives)

General:

Time:	40 mins - 1 hour
Objectives:	Comparing objects using comparative adjectives
Structures:	"This is smaller" (adj + ed) "That is more beautiful" (more + adj)
Target Vocab:	tall/taller, short/shorter, long/longer, fast/faster, slow/slower, heavy/heavier, big/bigger, small/smaller, new/newer, old/older, cheap/cheaper, beautiful, colorful, delicious, expensive, good/better, bad/worse

You will need to download:

Printables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures worksheet • Compare things at home worksheet • Adjective Word Cards - one set per pair or group (see end of this lesson) • Warm Up & Wrap Up lesson sheet
Readers:	Ben the Wizard

These can be downloaded at <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html>

You will also need:

- people pictures (e.g. from magazines): for tall / short adjectives (see point 1)
- pencils (long and short ones) (see point 1)
- car pictures (from magazines): for fast / slow adjectives (see point 1)
- heavy animal pictures / toys (e.g. elephant, hippo, rhino, cow, whale, etc.) (see point 1)
- plastic food or flashcards which has different sized items: for big / small / delicious adjectives (see point 1)
- some old / new looking objects (e.g. books, clothes) (see point 1)
- some cheap / expensive looking objects (e.g. pens, watches) (see point 1)
- some butterfly or tropical bird pictures: for colorful and beautiful adjectives (see point 1)
- some weather pictures: for good / bad (see point 1)
- blue tak or tape to stick the pictures to your board (see point 3)
- lots of magazines or other print materials (such as catalogs, brochures, newspapers, books with pictures, etc.) (see point 8)
- board with markers / chalk

Notes:

This lesson will help your students describe the world around them and make comparisons. This lesson should be taught after the Describing Things (Adjectives) lesson as much of that lesson's vocab will be recycled.

Lesson Overview:

Warm Up and Maintenance:

1. See our "Warm Up & Wrap Up" lesson sheet.

New Learning and Practice:

1. Review and teach adjectives
2. Draw adjective pictures on the "Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures" worksheet
3. Teach comparative adjectives (adj+er / more + adj)
4. Write and draw comparatives on the "Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures" worksheet
5. Students test each other on comparatives
6. Play "Let's compare things around us"
7. Read classroom reader "Ben the Wizard"
8. Play the "Magazine pictures comparisons game"

Wrap Up:

1. Set Homework: "Compare things at home" worksheet
 2. See our "Warm Up & Wrap Up" lesson sheet.
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Lesson Procedure:

Warm Up and Maintenance:

See our "Warm Up & Wrap Up" lesson sheet.

New Learning and Practice:

1. Review and teach adjectives

Before class:

Before the lesson collect at least two of each of the following objects, pictures or flashcards:

- people pictures (e.g. from magazines): for **tall** / **short** adjectives
- pencils (**long** and **short** ones)
- car pictures (from magazines): for **fast** / **slow** adjectives
- **heavy** animal pictures / toys (e.g. elephant, hippo, rhino, cow, whale, etc.)
- plastic food or flashcards which has different sized items: for **big** / **small** / **delicious** adjectives
- some **old** / **new** looking objects (e.g. books, clothes)
- some **cheap** / **expensive** looking objects (e.g. pens, watches)
- some butterfly or tropical bird pictures: for **colorful** and **beautiful** adjectives
- some weather pictures: for **good** / **bad**

Also, cut out the word cards - one set for each pair or group (and a set for yourself) - see last page of this lesson plan for word cards.

During class:

Scatter the objects / photos / flashcards randomly around the classroom (e.g. under tables, stuck to walls, on bookshelves, etc.). Students are going to match word cards to the objects around the room (see last page of this lesson plan for word cards).

Put students into pairs or small groups. Give each group a set of word cards. Tell the students they must find an object or picture that represents each word card and then place that word card next to the object or picture. Also explain that if the students don't know any of the words on the cards, they must guess which object to place it on.

Set a time limit (e.g. 5 minutes) and have the pairs / groups work together to place the cards next to the objects.

NOTE: allow and encourage students to place the word cards on other objects in the classroom, such as their bags (e.g. for heavy, old, colorful, etc.).

Once the time is up, get all the students to sit down in their groups. Ask different students to bring up the objects with their word cards and place them prominently at the front of the class (e.g. on a table). For each object, give a point to the team with the correct word card (e.g. a long pencil with the word card "long"). If there are any objects without a correct word card, teach the word for that object.

The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

2. Draw adjective pictures on the "Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures" worksheet

Give out the "Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures" worksheet to each student. Students continue to work in their same teams. Have students, using the objects and word cards at the front of the class for reference, draw pictures next to the words in the "adjectives" column (e.g. draw a tall man next to "tall" and a short man next to "short").

When everyone has finished, chorus all of the adjectives on the worksheet. Then have pairs work together: one points to pictures on the worksheet and their partner says the adjective, for example:

Student A: What's this?

Student B: A fast car.

Student A: And this?

Student B: A tall man.

etc.

Make sure students keep the worksheets as they will be using them again later in the lesson.

3. Teach comparative adjectives (adj+er / more + adj)

Take two of the people pictures that you used in the first activity. Stick them to the board. Under the shorter of the two, write "short". Point to the second person and teach/ elicit "tall - taller" and write that under the picture, underlining the "er" part (taller).

Do this for a couple more ~er adjectives (e.g. short - shorterer; long - longerer; etc.).

Next, place two "expensive" object pictures on the board. Write "expensive" under one and then ask what should be written under the other. You will probably get the answer "expensiver" - here teach the other and write form (more expensive).

Then, do another more + adj on the board.

Grammar Point: adj+er versus more + adj

- **adj+er:** in most cases, adjectives with **1 or 2 syllables** take the ~er form (e.g. fast - faster / heavy - heavier)
- **more + adj:** in most cases, adjectives with **3 or more syllables** take the more ~ form (e.g. expensive - more expensive / beautiful - more beautiful)
- there are a few exceptions to the above rule (e.g. modern - more modern)
- **irregular forms:** "good" and "bad" take the irregular forms "better" / "worse"

4. Write and draw comparatives on the "Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures" worksheet

Have the students take out their "Adjectives & Comparatives Pictures" worksheets again. Get them to have a go at writing all the comparative adjectives and draw pictures in the comparatives column.

For example, first point out the "taller" man and word in the first row, then model writing "smaller" and drawing a smaller man in the second row, comparative column.

As students are working on their worksheets circulate and help out. When everyone has finished, go through the worksheet by eliciting and writing the answers on the board. Make sure you focus on the following:

- spelling of heavier ("y changes" to "i")
- spelling of bigger (add a second "g")
- irregular form of good (better) and bad (worse)

5. Students test each other on comparatives

Place students in pairs. Student A looks at his/her worksheet and Student B turns over his/hers. A starts by giving a short sentence with the adjective and B says the comparative form, for example:

Student A: An old book.

Student B: An older book.

Student A: A beautiful bird.

Student B: A more beautiful bird.

Pairs change roles after completing the test.

Finally, have all students turn over their worksheets and stand up. Say an adjective to each student and ask them to change your adjective example into a comparative. They can sit down if they give the correct answer. For example:

Teacher: David, a cheap car.

David: A cheaper car.

Teacher: Good job! You can sit down.

6. Play "Let's compare things around us"

Put students into pairs. Start by modeling the activity with a student. Walk around the class and point to something - say a short sentence using an adjective from the worksheet, such as "A cheap pencil case". Your partner then needs to find another pencil case in the class which s/he can compare it to, for example:

Teacher: (pointing) A cheap pencil case.

Student (pointing) A cheaper pencil case.

(or)

Student (pointing) A more expensive pencil case.

Then have pairs walk around the room making comparisons.

7. Read classroom reader "Ben the Wizard"

This reader helps to reinforce the vocab and structures practiced in the previous activities. Before class, download and print off the reader "Ben the Wizard" from our website. As you go through each page, point to the different spells Ben the Wizard is doing and elicit the adjectives and comparatives, for example:

Teacher: (pointing at the top picture on page 2) What is this boy doing?

Students: He's running!

Teacher: Yes, that's right. Why is he running?

Students: To catch the bus!

Teacher: Yes, but why? Is he early or late?

Students: Late!

Teacher: Yes, he must be late. Do you think he can catch the bus?

Students: No!

Teacher: Why not?

Students: The bus is too fast!

Teacher: Right! So if the bus is too fast, the boy must be ... ?

Students: Too slow!

Teacher: Yes, good job! Now look here (pointing to the picture of Ben). He's casting another spell - zap! Now, is the boy too slow?

Students: No, he's faster!

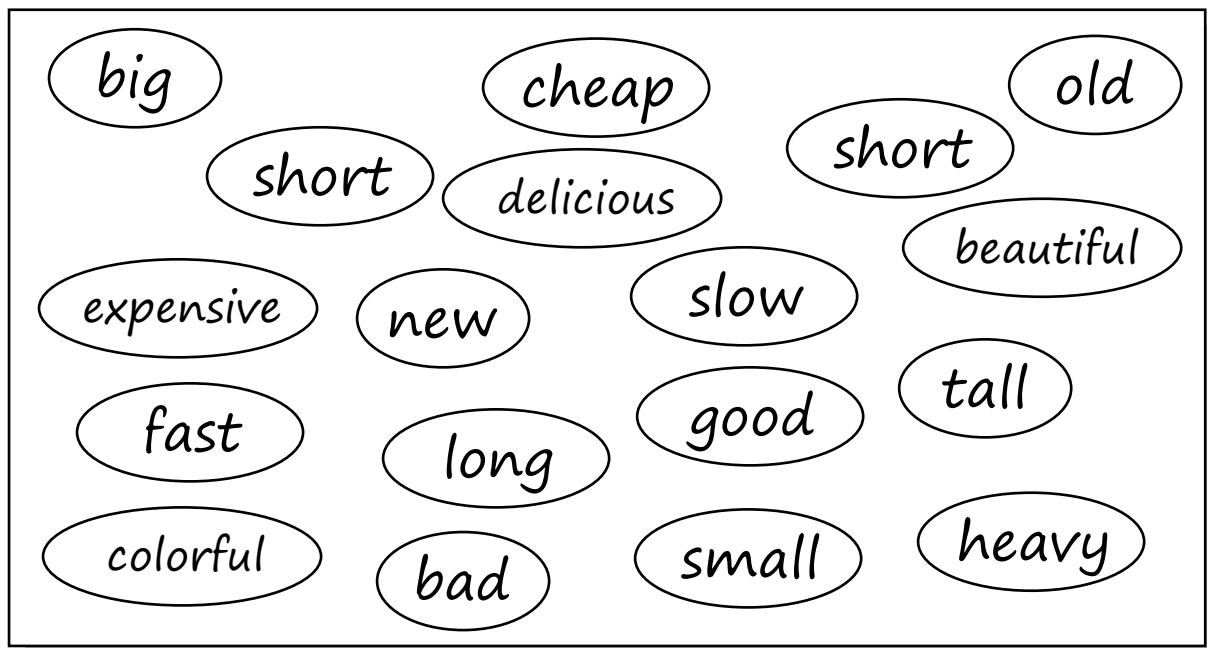
Teacher: That's right, good job! Let's check (reading) "John is late for his bus to school! He's not fast enough to catch it. Zap! Now he's much faster!"

Continue through the story, eliciting the key vocab and structures. You can also try asking students to predict what spell Ben is going to cast by covering the second picture on each page with your hand.

8. Play the "Magazine pictures comparisons game"

For this activity you'll need to prepare lots of magazines or other print materials (such as catalogs, brochures, newspapers, books with pictures, etc.).

Start by writing all of the adjectives from today's lesson randomly on the white board, as follows:



Next, put students into groups of 3 or 4 and have each group sit around a table. Place a pile of magazines and other print materials in the middle of the table (as many as you can).

Elect a student to start the game in each group (Student A). Student A should flick through any of the magazines on the table and find a picture. They should then use one of the adjectives from the board to describe the picture, such as "A beautiful boat". On this cue, the rest of the students in the group need to search through the remaining magazines on the table to find a picture of the same object and say a comparative sentence (e.g. "A more beautiful boat").

- the first student to find a comparative and make a correct sentence wins a point.
- if no one can find a comparative picture the student who started the round wins a point.
- the student who wins the point starts the next round.
- at the end, the student with the most points is the winner.

As the games are being played, circulate and help out with vocab and mistakes. Let the games continue until at least everyone has had a couple of goes at choosing a picture.

Finally, do a class check: ask at least one student from each team to show you a comparison they made.

Wrap Up:

1. Assign Homework: "Compare things at home" worksheet.
2. Wrap up the lesson with some ideas from our "Warm Up & Wrap Up" lesson sheet.

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- All flashcards, worksheets, craft sheets, readers and songs used in this lesson plan can be downloaded at [eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html](http://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html)
 - More free Lesson Plans are available at [eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html](http://www.eslkidstuff.com/esl-kids-lesson-plans.html)

Can you suggest any additions to this lesson plan? If you know of any great games, activities, teaching points, links to other sites or any other ideas that can be added to this lesson plan, please email us: <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/contact.htm>

Please report any mistakes at <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/contact.htm>

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Adjective Word Cards (American English)

tall	short	long	short
fast	slow	heavy	big
small	new	old	cheap
expensive	beautiful	colorful	delicious
good	bad		

Adjective Word Cards (British English)

tall	short	long	short
fast	slow	heavy	big
small	new	old	cheap
expensive	beautiful	colourful	delicious
good	bad		