

LESSON 2

the grammar you need

The exercises are to be done and corrected in class.

THE COMPARATIVE FORM – ADJECTIVES OF THREE OR MORE SYLLABLES

Let's compare these sunglasses.



Both pairs of sunglasses are expensive, but we can see that the pair of sunglasses on the right is **more expensive** than the pair on the left.

Now let's compare the books these guys are reading.



Both books are interesting, but the book on the right is probably **more interesting** than the book on the left.

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Now look at these examples.

Lauren thinks geometry is **more difficult than** algebra.

Deborah's earrings are **more beautiful than** Linda's earrings.

Joe is so conceited. He thinks he's **more intelligent than** Einstein!

My cat Tiger is **more adorable than** Kate's cat.

Mr. Fry thinks that New York City is **more interesting than** Miami.

Wow! This movie is **more exciting than** the movie we saw last week.

In each sentence above, we used **more . . . than** to make a comparison.

Notice that all the adjectives we used (difficult, beautiful, intelligent, adorable, interesting, and exciting) are long words, that is, they all have *three or more syllables*.



REMEMBER THIS:

We use **more + adj.** (3 or more syllables) + **than** to compare people, animals, places, and things.

Now let's take a look at this dialogue based on the lesson.



Because the boy on the left used “**than geometry**” in his question, notice that he does not need to repeat those words when he speaks again, because it is clear from the context that he is comparing algebra with geometry.

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I. Complete the sentences with the comparative form of the adjectives in parentheses, as in the example.

Example: Dresses are usually more expensive than blouses. (expensive)

1. Cake is _____ fruit salad for dessert. (fattening)

2. A lot of people think that work experience is _____ a college degree. (important)

3. Jake is _____ Erika. I think that's why the students elected him student council president and not her. (confident)

4. After the big basketball game, Elizabeth looked _____ Erin. (exhausted)

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IF I WERE

IF HE/SHE/IT WERE

Look at these dialogues from the lesson.



We normally use *was* after *I*, *he*, *she*, and *it* in the simple past tense of the verb *to be*. But notice that we used *were* after *she* (Mom) and *I* in the examples above.



REMEMBER THIS:

When we use
if + simple past tense of the verb *to be*,
we use **were** for all persons.

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Here are some more examples.

I'd definitely join the track team **if I were** good at sports.

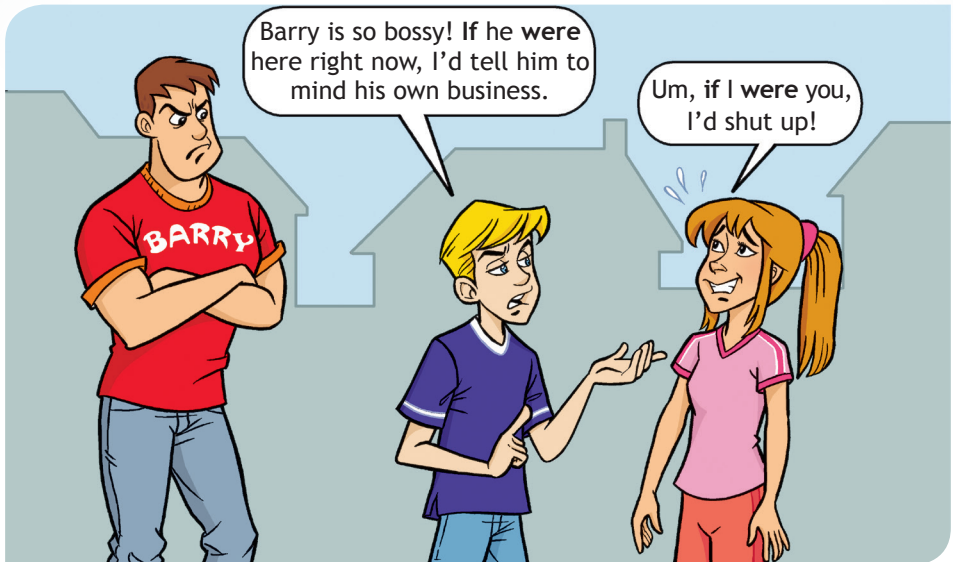
If I weren't so beat, I'd go to the gym and work out right now.

Mom would order you to eat your vegetables **if she were** here.

If ice cream weren't so fattening, it would be my favorite food.

We'd go to the park and play soccer now **if it weren't** raining.

Now look at these examples with **if he were** and **if I were**.



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II. Write the sentences another way. The first two are done for you.

1. If Bill weren't so rude and conceited, he would have more friends.
Bill would have more friends if he weren't so rude and conceited.

2. I'd visit my girlfriend every weekend if she didn't live so far away.
If my girlfriend didn't live so far away, I'd visit her every weekend.

3. If Dad weren't so upset with me, he would let me go to the party.

4. Ryan would be a great big brother if he weren't so bossy.

5. If it weren't so cold, I would spend the day at the beach.

6. Daniel would straighten up his room if he weren't playing now.

7. Mia would be a great class president if she were more confident.

8. If this dress weren't so expensive, Grandma would buy it for me.
