

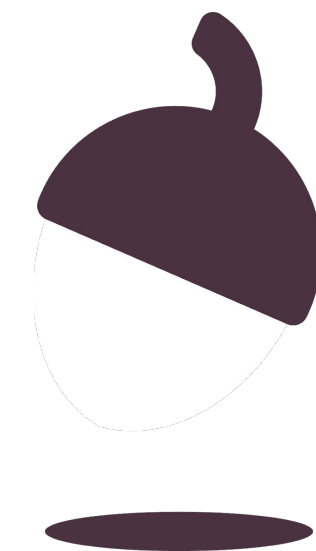
German

Explaining what you did/used to do (Part 1/2)

- Using comparative form of adjectives

Downloadable Resource

Herr Scales



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

lebendig	<i>lively</i>
billig	<i>cheap</i>
teuer	<i>expensive</i>
arm	<i>poor</i>
reich	<i>rich</i>
einfach	<i>easy</i>
schwierig	<i>difficult</i>
sicher	<i>safe, certain, secure</i>
gefährlich	<i>dangerous</i>
hoch	<i>high</i>



Der Komparativ

Add **-er** to an adjective or adverb to form the comparative:

Das Auto ist billig = *the car is cheap.*

Dieses Auto ist billiger = *this car is cheaper.*

Das Haus ist teuer = *the house is expensive*

Dieses Haus ist teurer = *this house is **more expensive**.*

Note: English uses 'more' to make the comparative with most adjectives of more than one syllable. German always adds **-er**.

Spelling differences:
-e □ -er – müde □ müder
-el □ -ler – dunkel □ dunkler
-er □ -rer – teuer □ teurer
(if -er preceded by a vowel).



Der Komparativ



To compare two things, use **als** to mean *than*:

Die Stadt ist sicher**er als** damals = *the town is safer **than** back then.*

Ich verstehe mehr **als** früher = *I understand more **than** in former times/before.*

Use **mehr** (more) on its own as an adverb but never before an adjective.

So in English useful → ~~usefuler~~ → more useful

But in German nützlich → ~~mehr nützlich~~ → nützlich**er**



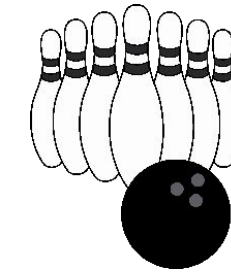
Der Komparativ

Most single syllable adjectives and adverbs do this: oft, alt, jung, kalt, warm, kurz, nah.

Some comparatives add an umlaut to the vowel (a, o, u):

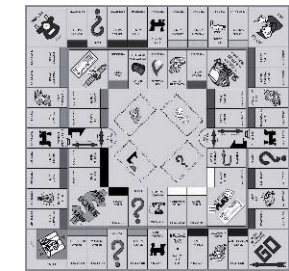
Das Spiel ist lang

= *the game is long*



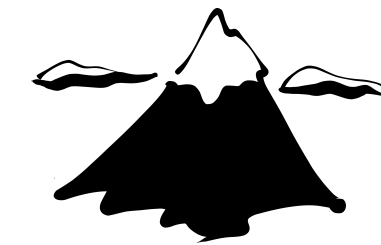
Dieses Spiel ist **länger**

= *this game is longer*



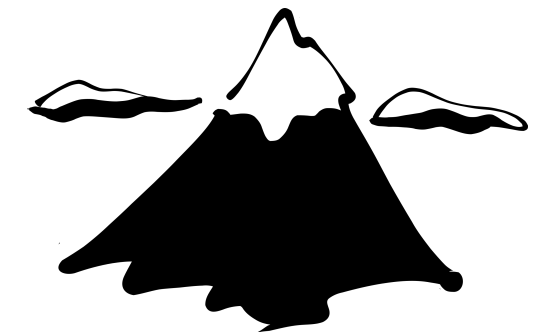
Der Berg ist groß

= *the mountain is big.*



Dieser Berg ist **größer**

= *this mountain is bigger.*



Der Komparativ

Four comparatives are completely different



gut □ besser
viel □ mehr
hoch □ höher
gern □ lieber

good □ better
a lot/much □ more
high □ higher
willingly □ rather

Der Laptop ist gut

= *the laptop is good*

Dieser Laptop ist besser

= *this laptop is better*

Ich lerne viel

= *I learn much/a lot*

Ich lerne mehr

= *I learn more*

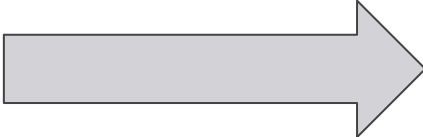


Englisch	Deutsch	Englisch	Deutsch
<i>rich</i>	reich	<i>richer</i>	reicher
<i>poor</i>	arm	<i>poorer</i>	armer
<i>cheap</i>	billig	<i>cheaper</i>	billiger
<i>expensive</i>	teuer	<i>more expensive</i>	teurer
<i>easy</i>	einfach	<i>easier</i>	einfacher
<i>difficult</i>	schwierig	<i>more difficult</i>	schwieriger
<i>safe</i>	sicher	<i>safer</i>	sicherer
<i>dangerous</i>	gefährlich	<i>more dangerous</i>	gefährlicher
<i>lively</i>	lebendig	<i>more lively</i>	lebendiger
<i>high</i>	hoch	<i>higher</i>	höher
<i>good</i>	gut	<i>better</i>	besser

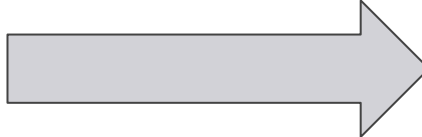


Summary of learning

In German, comparatives are formed by adding - er to the adjective

Eg reich  **reicher**

In German, most adjectives of one syllable add an umlaut if possible

Eg lang  **länger**

In comparative sentences the word for "than" is als

