

# Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #31

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## **FOCUS**      Short Comparative Modifiers

A **short comparative modifier** uses “\_\_er” for a one-syllable modifier to compare two things.

**Example:** big–*bigger*

## **CONNECT TO WRITING**

A modifier describes the meaning of another word or words and makes it more specific or limits its meaning or meanings.

**Example:** I ate the *big* piece. The word *big* is a modifier, making *piece* more specific.

Some two-syllable comparative modifiers use “\_\_er” and some use *more (less)*. If adding “\_\_er” sounds strange, use *more (less)* instead.

These comparative modifiers are irregular.

<b>Single Modifier</b>	<b>Comparative</b>
good/well	better
bad/badly	worse (not <i>worser</i> )
much/many	more

## **PRACTICE**

Cross out any misused comparative modifiers, and write the correct word above each error.

1. Earth is close to the sun than is Mars.
2. Sammy works more hard than any club member.
3. He dresses in his uniform most often than the members of his troop.
4. Of my brother and my sister, my brother acts worser.
5. She is sadder than I, but she is happier than my brother.

## **WRITE**

Write your own sentence with a one-syllable “\_\_er” comparative modifier and a second sentence with a two-syllable *more* comparative modifier. Don’t use any modifiers from this worksheet.

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## Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #33

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### **FOCUS** Long and “\_\_ly” Comparative Modifiers

Both **long** and “\_\_ly” **comparative modifiers** use *more* (*less*) for a three-syllable or longer modifier to compare two things.

**Example:** delicious—*more* or *less* delicious

### **CONNECT TO WRITING**

A modifier describes the meaning of another word or words and makes it more specific or limits its meaning or meanings.

**Example:** I ate the *delicious* cake. The word *delicious* is a modifier, making *cake* more specific.

Some long comparative modifiers are adjectives. Adjectives modify a proper noun, a common noun, or a pronoun and answer Which one? How many? or What kind?

**Example:** intelligent—The *intelligent* man was *more intelligent* than his father.

Some long comparative modifiers are adverbs. Adverbs modify a verb or another adverb and answer What degree? How? Where? or When? Use *more* or *less* for adverbs ending in “\_\_ly.”

**Example:** angrily—She argued *angrily*—even *more angrily* than her mother.

### **PRACTICE**

Cross out any misused comparative modifiers, and write the correct form above each error.

1. Geometry seems *difficulter* than algebra.
2. Tina did an *outstandinger* job than she had predicted.
3. Saying which one was the most incredible of the two was hard.
4. That behavior is most ridiculous than ever.
5. Of the two girls who are not here, the first one is least suspiciously absent.
6. The detective most suspected the blonde, rather than the brunette woman.
7. She acted least nervously than the other athlete.

### **WRITE**

Write your own sentence with a three-syllable *more* modifier. Don't use any modifiers found on this worksheet.

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## **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers**

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #31 Practice Answers**

1. closer 2. harder 3. more 4. worse 5. happier

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32 Practice Answers**

1. quickest 2. more 3. biggest 4. best

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #33 Practice Answers**

1. more (less) difficult 2. more outstanding 3. more (less) incredible  
4. more ridiculous 5. more (less) suspiciously 6. more (less) suspected 7. more (less) nervously

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #34 Practice Answers**

1. most considerate 2. least specifically 3. most carefully 4. most understood  
5. most simply 6. least frequently

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #35 Practice Answers**

was LV; had HV told; were HV going; did HV not turn LV; to be LV; would HV not have HV  
lied; felt LV; had HV; would HV be LV; seems LV; should HV find

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #36 Practice Answers**

1. permission 2. possibility 3. requirement 4. need 5. expectation 6. ability  
7. advice

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #37 Practice Answers**

1. Penny helped at the senior center after school. 2. Cowboys roped and branded their cattle.  
3. That radio station played all of my favorite songs. 4. Tamesia touched her left cheek every  
time she raised her hand in class.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #38 Practice Answers**

1. Larry was enjoying the beautiful sunsets at the beach. 2. They were expecting a lot of money  
for their used car. 3. Her friends were sleeping in the living room when the fire alarm sounded.  
4. Rosie was going to the movies.