Comparatives without *than*

Giving Advice to Someone When Shopping

Materials developed by Tiffany Shao
With credits and thanks to: Jeong Min Kim and John Mark King

**Target structure:** Comparatives without *than*

**Communicative function/situation:** Giving advice to a friend when shopping

**Target learners:** Low-intermediate level adults

**Type of Institution:** Survival English, adult ESL
Dialog 1:
Mei and Paola are in the ladies' dress department.

Mei: How do I look in this dress?

Paola: I think it looks great, but you should buy the silver dress. It makes you look younger.

Mei: Younger is good. OK! I'll get it!
**Dialog 2:**
Now Paola and Mei are in the shoe department.

Paola: Look at all these shoes you tried on! Which shoes do you like?

Mei: I don't know. I like the red shoes?

Paola: Yes, they are perfect for you! They make you look taller.

Mei: Great! I'll get them.

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**Dialog 3:**
Now Paola and Mei are trying on jeans.

Mei: Should I buy this pair of jeans?

Paola: Yes! They make you look thinner.

Mei: Really? Great! I'll buy them!
**Dialog 4:**
They are looking at jackets.

Mei: What do you think of this jacket?

Paola: It’s nice, but I like the grey jacket. It makes you look more professional.

Mei: Then, this jacket is perfect for work. I’ll buy it!

**Dialog 5:**
They are looking at handbags.

Mei: Look! Handbags. You said I need a new handbag.

Paola: Yeah! A big handbag! Look, this black handbag with many pockets is perfect for you. It makes you look more organized.

Mei: Good! I can put my umbrella and water bottle in it! I’ll buy it!
**Dialog 6:**
Paola and Mei are looking at jewelry.

Mei: What do you think of this ring?

Paola: Well, it's beautiful. It makes you look more elegant.

Mei: Great! I'll buy it! I can wear it to a wedding next week.

**Check your understanding:**

1. Go back to Dialog 1. How many dresses do you think Mei tried on?

2. Go back to Dialog 2. Why does Mei ask Paola to tell her which shoes to buy?

3. Go back to Dialog 3. Why did Mei try on many different pairs of jeans?

4. Go back to all the dialogs. Why do you think Mei went shopping with Paola?
Discovery

Mei looked at many dresses, shoes, jackets, and handbags. Paola helped Mei decide which one to buy. What did Paola say?

Fill in the tables below.

Compare your answers with a classmate.

### COMPARATIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dialog</th>
<th>Subject + “make you look”</th>
<th>Comparative Phrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>![Hat] It makes you look</td>
<td>more young -er</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>![Shoe]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>![Pants] They make you look</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>![Sweater]</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>![T-shirt]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>![Handbag]</td>
<td>elegant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What did you find out?

Complete the grammar explanations below.

We make comparatives by changing the _______________. There are _______________ ways to make comparatives:

1. We add _______________ to _______________, or
2. We add _______________ before _______________.

We can use comparatives when we talk about _______________.

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89
3 Controlled Activity

Directions:
1. Read the dialogs. Mei is shopping with Olga.
2. Fill in the blanks. Use the adjective that makes sense.
3. Make sure you use the correct comparative adjective.

Dialog 1:
Mei and Olga are looking at coats.

Mei: Olga, what do you think of this black coat?

Olga: It’s perfect.
It makes you look ________________.
(old, elegant)

Mei: You’re right! I’ll buy it!

Dialog 2:
Now they are trying on suits.

Mei: Do you think I should buy this suit?

Olga: Yes! You have a new job.
It makes you look ________________.
(expensive, professional)

Mei: Right. I’ll get it!
**Dialog 3:**
Mei and Olga are looking at raincoats.

Mei: I don't know which raincoat to buy!

Olga: Buy the long raincoat. It makes you look ____________.
      (thin, dry)

Mei: Yeah! I'll buy it!

**Dialog 4:**
Now they are trying on hats.

Mei: Look at these hats on sale. Do you think I should buy a hat?

Olga: Why not? A hat makes you look ____________.
      (stylish, comfortable)

Mei: Really? Great! I'll get it!
Dialog 5:
Mei and Olga are looking at pajamas.

Mei: What do you think of this pajama?
Olga: It's OK, but I like the long pajama. It makes you look ________________.
      (comfortable, handsome)
Mei: That's right! OK! I'll buy it!

Dialog 6:
Now they are in the jewelry department.

Mei: I don't know which earrings to buy!
Olga: Long earrings are popular now. They make you look ________________.
      (warm, nice)
Mei: Sounds great! I'll get them.
Semi-Controlled Activity

Directions:
1. Work with a partner.
2. Use the two sample dialogs below, take turns helping your partner shop for each shopping item listed.
3. Pick the adjective that makes sense. Remember to make it into a comparative adjective.

**Shopping Items:**
* jeans  
* leather jacket  
* tie  
* hat  
* sweater  
* pants  
* wallet  
* watch  
* T-shirt

**Adjectives:**
* tall  
* sophisticated  
* comfortable  
* cute  
* relaxed  
* elegant  
* handsome  
* thin  
* stylish  
* warm  
* professional  
* colorful  
* nice  
* beautiful  
* young  
* confident

**Sample Dialog 1:**
You and your partner are at a department store.

You: How do I look in this/these ________________________? (shopping item)

Your partner: It’s perfect for you! It makes/They make you look ________________________.

(comparative adjective)

You: I think so, too! I’ll buy it/them!

**Sample Dialog 2:**
You and your partner are shopping at Target.

Your partner: Look! I think you should buy this/these ____________________.

(shopping item)

It makes/They make you look ________________________.

(comparative adjective)

You: Really? Great! I’ll get it/them!
Your Turn

Directions:
1. Your teacher brought in some clothes and accessories.
2. Role-play shopping with a partner.
3. Pick two pieces of one type of clothing or accessory (for example, two shirts, two pairs of pants, or two belts).
4. Try on both pieces of clothing or accessory, one at a time.
5. Make dialogs like the ones we practiced before. Help your partner decide which one to buy.
6. Be creative! Use your own ideas!

To help you get started, write down some adjectives that you can use with the following clothing or accessory:

shirt: __________, __________, __________
sweater: __________, __________, __________
hat: __________, __________, __________
pants: __________, __________, __________
jacket: __________, __________, __________
watch: __________, __________, __________
skirt: __________, __________, __________
necklace: __________, __________, __________
# Grammar Highlighting – Answer Key

Mei looked at many dresses, shoes, jackets, and handbags. Paola helped Mei decide which one to buy. What did Paola say?

Fill in the tables below.

Compare your answers with a classmate.

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<td>1</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Dress" /></td>
<td>It makes you look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Shoe" /></td>
<td>It makes you look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Pants" /></td>
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What did you find out?

**Complete the grammar explanations below.**

We make comparatives by changing the ___adjectives_____. There are ___2___ ways to make comparatives:

1. We add ___“-er”___ to ___short adjectives___ or
2. We add ___“more”___ before ___long adjectives___.

*Note: Some short adjectives change spelling when we add “-er”. Your teacher will give more examples and help you find the rules.

We can use comparatives when we talk about how one thing makes an improvement over others, for example, when we are shopping. We can give shopping advice using comparatives to help someone decide what to buy.
Controlled Activity – Answer Key

Directions:
4. Read the dialogs. Mei is shopping with Olga.
5. Fill in the blanks. Use the adjective that makes sense.
6. Make sure you use the correct comparative adjective.

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Mei and Olga are looking at coats.

Mei: Olga, what do you think of this black coat?

Olga: It’s perfect.
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(Old, elegant)

Mei: You’re right! I’ll buy it!

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Mei: Do you think I should buy this suit?

Olga: Yes! You have a new job.
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Olga: Why not? A hat makes you look more stylish.
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Mei and Olga are looking at pajamas.

Mei: What do you think of this pajama?
Olga: It's OK, but I like the long pajama. It makes you look _more comfortable_. (comfortable, handsome)

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