

# **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

## HOW DO I LOOK?

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### English In Use

Mei is shopping with her friend Paola in a department store. She is not sure how the clothes and accessories look on her. Read the dialogs.



CANDY STRIPE  
SIZE: 7/8



PLATINUM DRESS  
SIZE: 8-10



CALIFORNIA GIRL  
SIZE: M/L



POP ART DRESS  
SIZE: 7/8



CHOCOLATE MOUSSE  
SIZE: SMALL

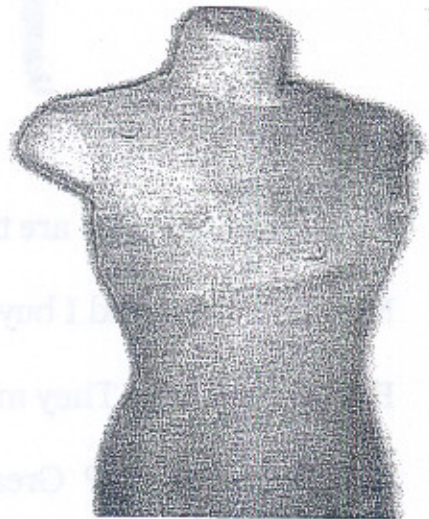
#### Dialog 1:

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.



### **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!

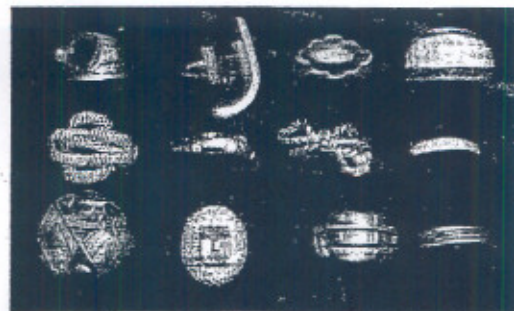
### **Dialog 6:**

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?









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

Dialog	Subject + "make you look"	Comparative Phrase		
		more	adjective	-er
1	 It makes you look		young	-er.
2				
3	 They make you look			
4		more		
5				
6			elegant.	



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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### 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



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.

### Adjectives:

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

**You and your partner are at a department store.**

Your partner: It's perfect for you! It makes/They make you look \_\_\_\_\_.  
(comparative adjective)

### Sample Dialog 2:

Your partner: Look! I think you should buy this/these \_\_\_\_\_.  
(shopping item)

It makes/They make you look \_\_\_\_\_.  
(comparative adjective)

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## 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.



### COMPARATIVES

Dialog	Subject + “make you look”	Comparative Phrase		
		more	adjective	-er
1	 It makes you look		young	-er.
2	 It makes you look	more	professional.	
3	 They make you look		tall	-er.
4	 It makes you look	more	organized.	
5	 They make you look		thin + n*	-er
6	 It makes you look	more	elegant.	



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.

### 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 more elegant.  
(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 more professional.  
(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 thinner.  
(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 more stylish.  
(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 more comfortable.  
(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 nicer.  
(warm, nice)

Mei: Sounds great! I'll get them.

