

7.1 Modals of speculation and deduction

- We use *could*, *might* or *may* when we think something is possible, but we are not sure.
This dish is very hot – it could contain a lot of chillies.
Carla might be allergic to nuts – don't add any walnuts.
Paul may want sugar in his coffee.
- In the negative, we use *might not* and *may not* but **NOT** *could not*.
This restaurant may/might not be very good.
NOT ~~*This restaurant could not be very good.*~~

- We use *must* when we are sure something is true because we have strong evidence for our belief.
This cake is burnt – it must taste horrible!
- We use *can't* when we are sure something is not true because we have strong evidence for our belief.
These biscuits are white – they can't be chocolate biscuits.
- We don't use *must* and *can't* for facts we are 100% sure about.

7.2 Comparatives and superlatives; *the ...*, *the ...*

Comparatives and superlatives

	Comparative	Superlative
Short adjectives (one syllable)	adj + <i>-er</i> (+ <i>than</i>) cheap → cheaper	<i>the</i> + adj + <i>-est</i> cheap → the cheapest
Longer adjectives	<i>more</i> + adj (+ <i>than</i>) popular → more popular	<i>the most</i> + adj popular → the most popular
Irregular adjectives	good → better (+ <i>than</i>) bad → worse (+ <i>than</i>)	good → the best bad → the worst
Adverbs	<i>more</i> + adv (+ <i>than</i>) quickly → more quickly	<i>the most</i> + adv quickly → the most quickly
Irregular adverbs	badly → worse far → farther/further fast → faster hard → harder well → better	badly → the worst far → the farthest / the furthest fast → the fastest hard → the hardest well → the best
Countable nouns	many nutrients → more nutrients	many nutrients → the most nutrients
	few nutrients → fewer nutrients	few nutrients → the fewest nutrients
Uncountable nouns	much protein → more protein	much protein → the most protein
	little fibre → less fibre	little fibre → the least fibre

- We use comparative adjectives and adverbs to say how two or more things or actions are different.
- We use superlative adjectives and adverbs to say that something is the top or bottom of a group.
- For adjectives ending in *-e* or *-y* the rules differ a little.
Your meal is larger than mine, but Harry's is the largest.
Carrot soup is tastier than pea soup, but chicken soup is the tastiest of all.
- For adjectives which end with one vowel and one consonant, we double the final consonant before adding *-er* or *-est*.
These melons are bigger than those ones.
- To make negative comparatives and superlatives, we use *less* instead of *more* and *the least* instead of *the most*.
- We never use *more* or *the most* together with *-er* or *-est*.
I think juice is healthier than coffee. NOT I think juice is more healthier than coffee.
- We only use *than* when it is followed by the thing we are comparing.
This dish is good but this one is better. NOT This dish is good but this one is better than.

the ..., *the ...*

<i>the</i> + comparative adjective + noun, <i>the</i> + comparative adjective + noun	The fresher the ingredients, the better the dish.
<i>the</i> + comparative adjective + clause, <i>the</i> + comparative adjective + clause	The more tasty it is, the more satisfied they will be.
<i>the</i> + comparative adverb + clause, <i>the</i> + comparative adverb + clause	The faster it boils, the more quickly it will be ready.
<i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + noun + clause, <i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + noun + clause	The more recipes you learn, the more food you can cook.
<i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + clause, <i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + clause	The more I practised , the less I needed a cookbook.

- We use *the ...*, *the* to show that two changes are closely connected. As one thing changes, the other thing changes too.
- Sometimes we use the very simplest form of this structure, using comparative adjectives only, and no verb.
The more, the merrier.
- We don't have to use only the forms shown in the table above. We can also combine different parts of the structures.
The more complicated the recipe, the longer it takes.
The less we spend on food, the more money we have.

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A Decide if the statements are true or false.

- 'Kitty may serve fruit salad for dessert tonight.'
Dessert will definitely be fruit salad. **True / False**
- 'I've been invited to three pot-luck dinners.'
They must be popular.
Pot-luck dinners are popular. **True / False**
- 'This can't be tomato soup – it isn't red!'
It almost certainly isn't tomato soup. **True / False**
- 'Bitter chocolate could be nice in a cake.'
The speaker really doesn't like bitter chocolate. **True / False**
- 'If you left the milk out all night, it could be sour.'
It's possible that the milk is sour. **True / False**

B Choose the correct option.

- A:** 'Are you going to order soup?'
B: 'No, I'm very hungry and it **mustn't / might not** be very filling.'
- A:** 'Lara said she wants chicken.'
B: 'But she doesn't eat meat. She **can't / mustn't** want chicken.'
- A:** 'What's 'scampi'?'
B: 'I don't know really. It **could / can** be some kind of fish.'
- A:** 'Dinner is at seven tonight.'
B: 'I **could / may** not get there in time as I have to work late.'
- A:** 'Look at that man! He's ordered three pizzas!'
B: 'He **can / must** really like pizza!'
- A:** 'I've ordered sushi for lunch.'
B: 'Hector **might / could** not eat that but we'll see.'

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7.2 Comparatives and superlatives; the ..., the ...

A Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjectives and adverbs in brackets.

- The _____ (*fast*) the pizza delivery man can get here is 15 minutes.
- You can buy cheese _____ (*cheaply*) in the street market than in the shops.
- The food in the airport was bad, but the meal on the plane was _____ (*bad*).
- I made the soup with _____ (*few*) ingredients than it says in the recipe.
- The _____ (*good*) way to serve this dessert is with a little cream.
- I would prefer to try a _____ (*mild*) curry than the one you're eating.

B Complete the sentences with the words and phrases in the box.

less meat more often more quickly the better
the more money the sweeter you disagree

- The _____ you eat, the healthier it is for your heart.
- The more sugar you add, _____ the sauce will be.
- The _____ you eat your salad, the sooner you'll have dessert!
- The more _____ with me, the less likely I am to change my mind!
- The _____ you reheat food, the more unsafe it becomes.
- The less food we throw away, _____ we'll save.

C Correct the mistakes in each sentence.

- The peas will cook more fast than the potatoes.
- I think the most sourest taste of any food is vinegar.
- Salad is the least filling than pasta.
- First prize in the competition will go to the person who cooks the more creatively.
- I put very little sugar in Jim's coffee, but he wanted even more little!
- Chia seeds have much protein than some foods, but quinoa has the most.

D Write one word in each gap to complete the sentences.

- Is fast food _____ popular than home-cooking in your country?
- My old mixer worked quite well, but this one works much _____.
- Water is the _____ fattening drink you can have because it has zero calories!
- Raw food is generally healthier _____ cooked food.
- All these curries are spicy, but this one is the hottest _____ all!
- The older the wine is, _____ better it gets.
- The salad plates are quite large, but the dinner plates are _____.
- Mmm! This is _____ most delicious meal I've ever had!

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