

## 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 → <b>the cheapest</b>
Longer adjectives	<i>more</i> + adj (+ <i>than</i> ) popular → <b>more</b> popular	<i>the most</i> + adj popular → <b>the most</b> popular
Irregular adjectives	good → <b>better</b> (+ <i>than</i> ) bad → <b>worse</b> (+ <i>than</i> )	good → <b>the best</b> bad → <b>the worst</b>
Adverbs	<i>more</i> + adv (+ <i>than</i> ) quickly → <b>more</b> quickly	<i>the most</i> + adv quickly → <b>the most</b> quickly
Irregular adverbs	badly → <b>worse</b> far → <b>farther/further</b> fast → faster hard → harder well → <b>better</b>	badly → <b>the worst</b> far → <b>the farthest / the furthest</b> fast → <b>the fastest</b> hard → <b>the hardest</b> well → <b>the best</b>
Countable nouns	many nutrients → <b>more</b> nutrients	many nutrients → <b>the most</b> nutrients
	few nutrients → <b>fewer</b> nutrients	few nutrients → <b>the fewest</b> nutrients
Uncountable nouns	much protein → <b>more</b> protein	much protein → <b>the most</b> protein
	little fibre → <b>less</b> fibre	little fibre → <b>the least</b> 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	<b>The fresher</b> the ingredients, <b>the better</b> the dish.
<i>the</i> + comparative adjective + clause, <i>the</i> + comparative adjective + clause	<b>The more tasty</b> it is, <b>the more satisfied</b> they will be.
<i>the</i> + comparative adverb + clause, <i>the</i> + comparative adverb + clause	<b>The faster</b> it boils, <b>the more quickly</b> it will be ready.
<i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + noun + clause, <i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + noun + clause	<b>The more recipes</b> you learn, <b>the more food</b> you can cook.
<i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + clause, <i>the</i> + <i>more/less</i> + clause	<b>The more I practised</b> , <b>the less I needed</b> 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.*

## 7.1 Modals of speculation and deduction

### 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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