Lesson 13
Agriculture: Modern Farming

PART 1
Regular Comparative Adjectives

PART 2
Irregular Comparative Adjectives

CONTENT VOCABULARY

Look at the pictures. Do you know the words?

- a tractor
- a farmer
- crops
- corn
- wheat
- a bull
- a cow
- cattle
- a turkey
- a chicken
- poultry
- pesticides

Write the new words in your vocabulary journal.

THINK ABOUT IT

Are there farms near where you live? What crops do they grow? Do they have cattle or poultry? Are the farms big or small? Discuss these questions with your classmates.
PART ONE  |  Regular Comparative Adjectives

GM Foods

In 2003, there were about 170 million acres of genetically modified (GM) crops in 18 countries. What are GM crops? GM crops are plants changed by humans. Foods from GM crops are often bigger than foods from traditional crops.

Why are farmers growing GM crops? Some farmers think GM crops are safer than traditional crops. They think growing GM crops is easier than growing traditional crops because they don’t need to use pesticides.

Some consumers think that GM crops will be more expensive than traditional crops. They think that GM foods are healthier because they don’t go bad very fast. Many others think that foods from GM crops are not safe.

an acre: a piece of land measuring 4,840 square yards

B Check (✓) True or False.

1. GM crops are the same as regular crops.  
   True  False

2. Some farmers think growing GM crops is easy.  
   True  False

3. Everyone thinks food from GM crops is safe.  
   True  False

Regular Comparative Adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| one syllable   | Add -er or -r and put the word than after it.  
   • For adjectives with one vowel and one final consonant, double the final consonant and add -er.  
   • For adjectives with two vowels, add -er.  
   • For adjectives with two consonants, add -er.  
   • For adjectives ending in -e, add -r. | big, bigger/hot, hotter |
| two syllables ending in -y | Change -y to -i and add -ler and put the word than after it. | healthy, healthier |
Complete the dialogue with the verbs and adjectives in parentheses. Make comparative forms of adjectives and use the word than.

Kyle: Do you know which college you want to go to next year?

Betty: Yes. I want to go to Texas A&M University.

Kyle: A&M? Why?

Betty: I looked at many schools, but A&M offers more exciting (exciting) courses than the others. Their curriculum is harder (hard) some other schools, but the school is also more famous (famous) than many other colleges.

Kyle: Do you plan on being a farmer?

Betty: Yes, I do. I’m interested (interested) in feeding people in any other career. And I think a career in agriculture will be more stressful (stressful) a career in high finance and business. I know that’s what you like.

Kyle: I really think that farming is more stressful (stressful) business.
D Write sentences to compare the pictures. Use comparatives of the adjectives in parentheses.

1. (fat) **Cow A is fatter than cow B.**

2. (healthy) __________________________
   __________________________

3. (heavy) __________________________
   __________________________

4. (big) __________________________
   __________________________

5. (modern) __________________________
   __________________________

6. (beautiful) __________________________
   __________________________

7. (tall) __________________________
   __________________________

8. (tasty) __________________________
   __________________________

COMMUNICATE

E PAIR WORK Compare these two farmers. Use the adjectives in the box.

Clem Judd

old tall thin curly friendly long
short practical dangerous

F PAIR WORK Compare yourself to your partner. Discuss what’s different and the same about you.
A Read the dialogue.

Organic Vegetables
Liam: Hey, Lynn! I see you’re shopping for groceries, too.
Lynn: Hi, Liam. Look at these organic tomatoes! Aren’t they beautiful?
Liam: Organic? I can’t afford organic.
Lynn: They are expensive. But organic vegetables are much better than nonorganic vegetables. Farmers use fewer chemicals to grow them so they’re healthier.
Liam: Yeah, I know organic farms use fewer pesticides than nonorganic farms. But organic vegetables are still more expensive than regular ones.
Lynn: Well, eating organic vegetables is better than eating nonorganic vegetables. But not eating any vegetables is worse.

afford: to be able to pay for something without difficulty

B Check (✔) True or False.

1. Liam thinks organic food is expensive. ✔️️
2. Lynn thinks organic food isn’t healthy. □
3. Lynn thinks eating vegetables is bad. □

Irregular Comparative Adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irregular Adjectives</th>
<th>Comparative Phrases</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>better than</td>
<td>Organic potatoes are better than nonorganic potatoes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse than</td>
<td>For crops, drought is worse than insects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>farther than</td>
<td>A tractor goes farther than a horse and cart.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
It is also acceptable to use further than.
**Irregular Comparative Adjectives with Nouns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irregular Adjectives</th>
<th>Comparative Adjectives</th>
<th>Countable Nouns</th>
<th>than</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a few, a lot of</td>
<td>Ashley’s farm has</td>
<td>cows</td>
<td>than mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fewer, more</td>
<td>crops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparative Adjectives</th>
<th>Uncountable Nouns</th>
<th>than</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a little, much</td>
<td>Ashley’s farm has</td>
<td>less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more</td>
<td>cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>corn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C Complete the sentences about the pictures. Use irregular comparative adjectives.**

1. Reiko has a lot of corn, **but Roberto has more** corn than Reiko.

2. Roberto has many sheep, but ________________

   ________________

3. Harvey’s apples are good, but ________

   ________________

4. Marvin’s apples have a lot of flavor, but ________________

5. Farmington has 4,382 people in it. Orchardville ________________

6. Shadylane Farm is ________________

   from Orchardville ________________

   Sunnyvale Farm is.
Look at the chart. Write sentences comparing the two farms. Use irregular comparative adjectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farming Industry Report: Poultry</th>
<th>Sunnyvale Farm</th>
<th>Shadylane Farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Profit</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Employees</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chickens</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Turkeys</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. States they sell to</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Sunnyvale Farm makes less profit than Shadylane Farm.
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

COMMUNICATE

WRITE Write a paragraph comparing organic food and nonorganic food. Use irregular comparative adjectives.

GROUP WORK Compare two places you know well. Use the words in the box to help. Discuss your comparisons with a small group.

population  food  weather  people  history  agriculture  cities  economy

Chile has fewer people than the United States and the cities are smaller.
PROJECT Debate agricultural issues.

1. Work in groups. Divide into two teams.
2. Choose one of these topics to debate:
   - Chemicals are bad for farms.
   - Organically grown crops are healthier for us.
   - Bigger farms are better than smaller farms.
3. One team will be “pro” (meaning “for” something). The other team will be “con” (meaning “against” something). Prepare comparative statements to defend your team’s opinion, pro or con.
4. Have a debate.

INTERNET Go online. Choose a country you want to know more about. Compare that country’s agriculture to the agriculture in your country. How many farms are there? What crops do they grow? Prepare a short report for the class on what you find.