

Less vs. Fewer , Worksheet 1, 14 Exercises Answers

1. There are less markers in the cabinet today than yesterday.

Answer: There are **fewer** markers in the cabinet today than there were yesterday.

Teaching Tip: The word marker is a count noun because we can make it plural. I would also encourage students to complete the comparison by using "than [there were] yesterday."

2. Chefs use less kilograms of flour making pastries than making bread.

Answer: Chefs use **fewer** kilograms of flour making pastries than making bread.

Teaching Tip: It is "fewer" kilograms of flour, but "less" flour." Emphasize the fact that you can count kilograms (1, 2, 3, ...) but you can't "count" flour without indicating a count quantity such as ounces or grams. We can't really say "one flour."

3. Less automobiles cross the bridge at night than in the afternoon.

Answer: **Fewer** automobiles cross the bridge at night than in the afternoon.

4. Energy-efficient appliances consume less electricity than older appliances.

Answer: Correct. We cannot count the word electricity, so we "consume less electricity" but "fewer kilowatts."

5. Energy-efficient appliances consume less kilowatts of electricity than older appliances.

Answer: Energy-efficient appliances consume **fewer** kilowatts of electricity than older appliances.

6. Janice exhibits less emotional outbursts than Alicia.

Answer: Janice exhibits **fewer** emotional outbursts than Alicia.

Teaching Tip: Impress upon students that what the sentence is talking about is "outbursts." What type of outbursts? Emotional outbursts. You can count an outburst. If you can put make it plural you can count it.

Janice exhibits **less** emotion (you can't count emotion) than Alicia.

Janice exhibits **fewer** emotional outbursts than Alicia.

7. Modern buildings use much less steel beams than older buildings.

Answer: Modern buildings use much **fewer** steel beams than older buildings.

8. This spring, I plan to spend less Euros travelling than I did last year.

Answer: This spring, I plan to spend **fewer** Euros travelling than I did last year.

Teaching Tip: Money is easy to explain because we can count it. Interestingly, however, the word money cannot be counted. We can count Euros, dollars, dinars, and pesos, but we cannot count money. So,

This spring, I plan to spend **less money** travelling than I did last year.
This spring, I plan to spend **fewer pesos** travelling than I did last year.

9. People spend less days vacationing than they did in the past.

Answer: People spend **fewer** days vacationing than they did in the past.

Teaching Tip: We cannot count time, but we can count days, hours, weeks, and minutes.

People spend **less time** vacationing than they did in the past.
People spend **fewer weeks** vacationing than they did in the past.

10. Peter has lost less weight than John because he does not eat less candy bars at snack time.

Answer: Peter has lost less weight than John because he does not eat **fewer** candy bars at snack time.

Teaching Tip: We cannot count the word weight. So we lose "less weight," but we lose "fewer kilograms" or "fewer pounds."

11. When Ali moved to Brisbane, he packed less bags than his sister.

Answer: When Ali moved to Brisbane, he packed **fewer** bags than his sister.

12. The winery shipped less barrels of wine this year.

Answer: The winery shipped **fewer** barrels of wine this year.

Teaching Tip: We cannot count the word wine, except in a very specific context ("the wines of Chile" for example. So the winery ships **less wine** but **fewer barrels** of wine.

13. Chinese food uses less grams of cheese per serving than Mexican food.

Answer: Chinese food uses **fewer** grams of cheese per serving than Mexican food.

14. Florida ships less tons of sugar today than it did last decade.

Answer: Florida ships **fewer** tons of sugar today than it did last decade.

Teaching Tip: We cannot count the word "sugar" but we can count specific quantities of sugar. So Florida ships **less sugar** but **fewer tons** of sugar.

Less vs. Fewer , Worksheet 2, 27 Exercises Answers

1. (**Fewer, Less**) than three weeks remain until our trip to Disney World.

Teaching Tip: We're not comparing anything. The writer is referring to an absolute unit of time. Use Less.

2. The GED preparation course took Christina (**fewer, less**) than three weeks to complete.

Teaching Tip: Again, there is no comparison here, so the comparative degree (fewer) is not correct. The writer refers to an absolute unit of time. Use Less.

3. Christina completed the GED preparation course in three (**fewer, less**) weeks than James did.

Teaching Tip: Here we have a comparison. The writer is comparing the **number** of weeks to took Christina to compete the GED prep course with the **number** (not amount) of weeks it took James.

4. (**Fewer, Less**) students enrolled in Mr. Asper's sociology class this year than last year.

Teaching Tip: We are comparing the **number** of students in his course this year with the number last year. Use Fewer.

5. The answer key to the worksheets costs (**fewer, less**) than ten dollars.

Teaching Tip: We refer to an absolute amount of money. There is no comparison. Use Less.

6. (**Fewer, Less**) than seven teachers signed up for the workshop; therefore, it was cancelled.

Teaching Tip: This one is tricky, and I had to think about it for a long time. "Teachers," of course, is a countable noun, so we might be tempted to use "fewer." But notice. We are not comparing anything. The seven teachers are an absolute quantity. Use Less.

7. Every morning, Leslie must walk (**fewer, less**) than four miles to school.

Teaching Tip: An absolute quantity. There is no comparison. Use Less.

8. Every morning, Leslie must walk (**fewer, less**) miles to school than Martin.

Teaching Tip: In this sentence, the writer compares the **number** of miles that Leslie walks to school with the number of miles that Martin walks. Use Fewer.

9. Mehgan smoked (**fewer, less**) cigarettes this week than she did last week.

Teaching Tip: Comparison – number of cigarettes this week with the number last week. (Don't we wish that Mehgan did not smoke at all?)

10. (**Fewer, Less**) than six cases of copier paper remain in the storage room.

Teaching Tip: Absolute quantity – no comparison. Use Less.

11. Roderick consumes (~~fewer~~, **less**) salt during his meals now that he has been diagnosed with high blood pressure.

Teaching Tip: Salt is a non-count noun. Use Less.

12. Pat decided to eat (**fewer**, ~~less~~) pastries for breakfast than he normally does.

Teaching Tip: This sentence stumped me for a while. We are comparing the **number** of pastries that Pat eats at breakfast with the **number** of pastries that she eats at other times. Use Fewer.

13. Pat decided to drink (~~fewer~~, **less**) soda for lunch than he normally does.

Teaching Tip: Soda is a non-count noun. Use Less.

14. People wear (~~fewer~~, **less**) clothing in Miami than they do in Boston.

Teaching Tip: Clothing is a non-count noun. Use Less.

15. Jesse ate (**fewer**, ~~less~~) strawberries than Ellen [ate].

Teaching Tip: Strawberries are count nouns, and we are comparing the **number** of strawberries that Jesse ate with the **number** of strawberries that Ellen ate. Note the elliptical construction.

16. Jesse drank (~~fewer~~, **less**) grape juice than Ellen [drank].

Teaching Tip: Grape juice is non-count. Use Less.

17. Lisa takes (~~fewer~~, **less**) time in finishing a test than Jenny.

Teaching Tip: Time is non-count, so even though there is a comparison, use Less.

18. Lisa takes (**fewer**, ~~less~~) minutes in finishing a 5K run than Jenny.

Teaching Tip: Minutes is a count noun, and even though we are referring to time, the "minutes" in this case is not an absolute quantity. We are comparing the **number** of minutes that Lisa takes with the **number** of minutes that Jenny takes.

19. Bert can sprint forty meters in (~~fewer~~, **less**) than six seconds.

Teaching Tip: Absolute quantity. No comparison. Use Less.

20. It costs (~~fewer~~, **less**) than five dollars to eat a good breakfast at Denny's.

Teaching Tip: Absolute quantity. No comparison. Use Less.

21. Jackson makes (**fewer**, ~~less~~) dollars per hour than Danny.

Teaching Tip: Comparison. Use Fewer.

22. No (~~fewer~~, **less**) than ten thousand people attended the concert in Dayton.

Teaching Tip: Absolute quantity. No comparison. Use Less.

23. (**Fewer**, ~~less~~) people attended the concert in Cincinnati than in Dayton.

Teaching Tip: Comparison. Use Fewer.

24. There are (**fewer**, ~~less~~) players on the rugby squad this year than there were last year.

Teaching Tip: Comparison (the number of players this year with last year). Use Fewer.

25. No (~~fewer~~, **less**) than seven buildings are planned for the resort.

Teaching Tip: Absolute quantity. No comparison. Use Less.

26. The resort will comprise (~~fewer~~, **less**) than ten acres.

Teaching Tip: Absolute quantity. No comparison. Use Less.

27. Olivia brought (**fewer**, ~~less~~) pencils to school than Anna.

Teaching Tip: Comparison. Use fewer.