

Exceptional Expressions For Everyday Events

More is a word that can be used in more ways than you might imagine! In general, *more* helps in making comparisons between different quantities, as in "This t-shirt costs more than that one, and "More students are attending the football games now that the team is winning." In the first example, *more* is an adverb, and in the second it is an adjective. *More* can even serve as a noun, as in, "I wanted more, but my brother ate the last of the cake."

More is very commonly used as part of a set of comparison words: *many*, *more*, and *most*. Many people like chocolate. More people like chocolate than licorice. Most people like candy. *More* often appears together with verbs, adjectives, and adverbs to express comparisons or degrees. Roberto enjoyed the movie, but he enjoyed the book more.

There is one catch to learning when to use *more* that can be confusing. Some words, for example, *fast* and *high*, usually form comparisons by adding the endings *-er* and *-est*, instead of using *more* and *most* ("ran fast, ran faster, ran fastest," and "climbed high, climbed higher, climbed highest"). A helpful rule of thumb is that words of more than one syllable tend to be used with *more* and *most*. *More* is also seen in word combinations such as *anymore* ("any longer") and *furthermore* ("in addition").

Follow-Ups

- Can you think of other words that use *-er* and *-est* versus *more* and *most*?
- How is supplementary different from complementary?
- How is the meaning of "bigger than the sun" different from "even bigger than the sun"?

The Spanish Connection

The word *more* is a cognate of the Old Frisian word *māra*. The Spanish word for *more* is *más*. Although *more* and *más* are not cognates, some synonyms for *more* do have Spanish cognates.

Word Changes

- The expression "the more the merrier" is believed to come from an English poem written in the 1380's. Since then, the phrase has become a common way to welcome people. The idea is that a bigger group will be even more lively or fun.
- The idiom "more or less" means "approximately" or "to some extent." It suggests that the statement is somewhat true, but in a limited way. "The student's report was more or less what the teacher had requested" indicates that the report was acceptable but not of the quality the teacher wanted. "The bottle of milk is more or less full" means that the bottle is almost but not completely full.



More as in also

- also
- additional
- another
 - extra
- further
- supplemental
- supplementary
 - added

More as in a greater number or amount

- lots
- tons
- loads
- additional
 - another
 - extra

More

PROVERBS

"The more the merrier."

"The more things change, the more they stay the same."

"There's more than one way to skin a cat."

"Less is more."

COMMON PHRASES

- More often than not
- A little bit more
- More where that came from
- More than ever
- More power to you
- More than you bargained for
- Need I say more?
- Say no more
- What more do you want?
- Couldn't have asked for more
- More than meets the eye

IDIOMS

- More and more
- More or less
- More of the same

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

- additional / adicional
- supplementary / suplementario(a)











