## Grammar Hub

### 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) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { adj + -er (+ than }) \\ & \text { cheap } \rightarrow \text { cheaper } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { the }+ \text { adj }+ \text {-est } \\ & \text { cheap } \rightarrow \text { the cheapest } \end{aligned}$ |
| Longer adjectives | $\begin{aligned} & \text { more + adj (+ than) } \\ & \text { popular } \rightarrow \text { more popular } \end{aligned}$ | the most + adj popular $\rightarrow$ the most popular |
| Irregular adjectives | good $\rightarrow$ better (+ than) <br> bad $\rightarrow$ worse (+ than) | good $\rightarrow$ the best <br> bad $\rightarrow$ the worst |
| Adverbs | $\begin{aligned} & \text { more + adv (+ than) } \\ & \text { quickly } \rightarrow \text { more quickly } \end{aligned}$ | the most + adv <br> quickly $\rightarrow$ the most quickly |
| Irregular adverbs | badly $\rightarrow$ worse <br> far $\rightarrow$ farther/further <br> fast $\rightarrow$ faster <br> hard $\rightarrow$ harder <br> well $\rightarrow$ better | badly $\rightarrow$ the worst far $\rightarrow$ the farthest / the furthest <br> fast $\rightarrow$ the fastest <br> hard $\rightarrow$ the hardest <br> well $\rightarrow$ the best |
| Countable nouns | many nutrients $\rightarrow$ more nutrients | many nutrients $\rightarrow$ the most nutrients |
|  | few nutrients $\rightarrow$ fewer nutrients | few nutrients $\rightarrow$ the fewest nutrients |
| Uncountable nouns | much protein $\rightarrow$ more protein | much protein $\rightarrow$ the most protein |
|  | little fibre $\rightarrow$ less fibre | little fibre $\rightarrow$ 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 disht is good but this one is better than.
the ..., the ...
the + comparative adjective + noun, the + comparative adjective + noun
the + comparative adjective + clause, the + comparative adjective + clause
the + comparative adverb + clause, the + comparative adverb + clause
the + more/less + noun + clause, the + more/less + noun + clause
the + more/less + clause, the + more/less + clause
- 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.

The fresher the ingredients, the better the dish.
The more tasty it is, the more satisfied they will be.
The faster it boils, the more quickly it will be ready.
The more recipes you learn, the more food you can cook.
The more I practised, the less I needed a cookbook.

- 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.

1 'Kitty may serve fruit salad for dessert tonight.'
Dessert will definitely be fruit salad. True / False
2 'I've been invited to three pot-luck dinners.
They must be popular!
Pot-luck dinners are popular. True / False
3 'This can't be tomato soup - it inn't red!'
It almost certainly isn't tomato soup. True / False
4 'Bitter chocolate could be nice in a cake.'
The speaker really doesn't like bitter chocolate.

True / False
5 '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.

1 A: 'Are you going to order soup?'
B: 'No, I'm very hungry and it mustn't / might not be very filling.'
2 A: 'Lara said she wants chicken.'
B: 'But she doesn't eat meat. She can't / mustn't want chicken.'
3 A: 'What's'scampi'?'
B: 'I don't know really. It could / can be some kind of fish.'
4 A: 'Dinner is at seven tonight.'
B: 'I could / may not get there in time as I have to work late.'
5 A: 'Look at that man! He's ordered three pizzas!'
B: 'He can / must really like pizza!'
6 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.

1 The (fast) the pizza delivery man can get here is 15 minutes.

2 You can buy cheese $\qquad$ (cheaply) in the street market than in the shops.

3 The food in the airport was bad, but the meal on the plane was $\qquad$ (bad).

4 I made the soup with $\qquad$ (few) ingredients than it says in the recipe.

5 The $\qquad$ (good) way to serve this dessert is with a little cream.

6 I would prefer to try a $\qquad$ (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

1 The $\qquad$ you eat, the healthier it is for your heart.

2 The more sugar you add, $\qquad$ the sauce will be.

3 The $\qquad$ you eat your salad, the sooner you'll have dessert!

4 The more $\qquad$ with me, the less likely I am to change my mind!
5 The $\qquad$ you reheat food, the more unsafe it becomes.

6 The less food we throw away, we'll save.

C Correct the mistakes in each sentence.
1 The peas will cook more fast than the potatoes.
2 I think the most sourest taste of any food is vinegar.
3 Salad is the least filling than pasta.
4 First prize in the competition will go to the person who cooks the more creatively.

5 I put very little sugar in Jim's coffee, but he wanted even more little!

6 Chia seeds have much protein than some foods, but quinoa has the most.

D Write one word in each gap to complete the sentences.
1 Is fast food $\qquad$ popular than homecooking in your country?
2 My old mixer worked quite well, but this one works much

3 Water is the $\qquad$ fattening drink you can have because it has zero calories!
4 Raw food is generally healthier $\qquad$ cooked food.
5 All these curries are spicy, but this one is the hottest
$\qquad$ all!
6 The older the wine is, $\qquad$ better it gets.

7 The salad plates are quite large, but the dinner plates are

8 Mmm ! This is $\qquad$ most delicious meal I've ever had!
> Go back to page 80.

