

COMPARATIVE FORMS

- Adjectives have gender, number, case and degree. Up until now, we have not talked about degree.
- There are three degrees an adjective can have. The first one is called positive which is what we have been doing. I sometimes call these regular adjectives or normal adjectives. The second is the comparative and the third is the superlative. This handout discusses the comparative.
- Comparatives are translated using one of the following with the adjective: *rather, too, more*, or you can just add the letters *e r* to the end of the adjective. Here is an English example: *faster, rather fast, more fast, too fast*.
- To put an adjective into the comparative you follow these steps.
 1. Find the base by dropping the **a** or **is**
 2. add *-ior* or *-ius* (use *-ius* only for neuter nominative and accusative singular)
 3. add 3rd declension noun endings to the **-ior**. You never add anything to the **-ius**.

Below is an example of an adjective in all the cases in the masculine and feminine (which are the same) and the neuter (which has a few differences).

It does not matter what declension an adjective was originally. Once you put it into the comparative form it uses 3rd declension endings. But be careful because the endings are like 3rd declension NOUN endings not 3rd declension adjective endings.

MASCULINE AND FEMININE	
Singular	Plural
amicior	amiciores
amicioris	amiciorum
amiciori	amicioribus
amiciozem	amiciores
amicioze	amicioribus

NEUTER	
singular	Plural
amicius	amicioza
amiciozis	amiciozum
amiciozi	amiciozibus
amicius	amicioza
amicioze	amiciozibus

There are two ways to express the idea of “than” in Latin.

I. Use the word **quam**.

Hic vir est fortior **quam** ille.

This man is stronger **than** that man

II. Put the second word in the comparison in the ablative case. In this instance there is no actual word in the Latin sentence that means “than”. You have to understand it.

Hic vir est fortior **illo**

This man is stronger **than** that man

Ablative of degree of difference

Multo- much

Paulo – a little

Both words are in the ablative and are used with a comparative to express the degree by which something is ----er.

Example: *Hic est paulo fortior quam ille- This man is a little stronger than that man*

Example: *Hic est multo fortior quam ille- This man is much stronger than that man*