

More vs Greater:

Greater is primarily used as:

i) *Adjective* (modifying a *Noun*)

On the other hand, *more* can be used as:

i) *Adjective* (modifying a *Noun*) or

ii) *Adverb* (modifying an *adjective* or *adverb*)

Hence, when *more* is used as an *adverb*, there is *no* scope for confusion (since *greater* is primarily used only as an *adjective* and *not* as an *adverb*). So, following are all correct usages:

more quickly, more efficient, more likely, more expensive, more effective, more concentrated, more common, more efficiently, more susceptible, more conservative, more often.

Notice that in all these examples, *more* acts as an *adverb* (modifying the corresponding *adjective/adverb*). In fact, substituting *more* with *greater* would clearly seem *absurd* in these cases (for example, *greater quickly, greater expensive, greater effective, greater concentrated* are all clearly wrong).

When *more* is used as an *adjective* (modifying a *noun*), there can be some confusion (because both *more* and *greater* can be used as *adjective*). In such a scenario, following would work in most cases:

If the noun can be *prefixed* by a phrase that expresses *quantity* (phrases such as *number of, volume of, amount of* etc.), we use *more*, else we use *greater*.

For example, nouns such as *particles, babies, rivers, toys, protein, energy, and coffee* would use *more* (notice that we can say *number of particles, number of babies, number of rivers, number of toys, amount of protein, amount of energy, and amount of coffee*)

On the other hand, nouns such as *speed, rate, length, and population* would use *greater* (greater speed, greater rate, greater length, and greater population). This makes sense because we *cannot* prefix these nouns by a phrase that expresses *quantity* (phrases such as *amount of speed, amount of rate, number of length, and amount of population* are clearly *wrong*).

Similarly, nouns that represent pure *numbers* (such as *proportion, likelihood, probability, amount, and numbers*) use *greater* (greater proportion, greater likelihood, greater probability, greater amount, and greater numbers). Again, this makes sense because we *cannot* prefix these nouns by a phrase that expresses *quantity* (phrases such as *number of proportion, amount of likelihood, number of probability, number of amount, amount of numbers* are clearly *wrong*).

For example:

The number of tigers in Taiwan is thirteen times more now than when the Tiger Conversation program was launched in 1973.

- Incorrect. The sentence is comparing pure *numbers* (the number) and so, *greater* would be appropriate usage:

The number of tigers in Taiwan is thirteen times greater now than when the Tiger Conversation program was launched in 1973.