

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.

Following would also be correct:

In Taiwan, Tigers are thirteen times more now than when the Tiger Conversation program was launched in 1973.

Notice that the above sentence does *not* use the phrase *the number* any more, and is just comparing the noun *tigers*. Hence, we now use *more* (this makes sense because the noun *tigers* can be *prefixed* by a phrase that expresses *quantity*: we can say *number of tigers*).

Let's look at another sentence:

The rate of economic growth in Developing countries is more than that in Developed countries.

- Incorrect. The sentence is comparing *rate*. Note that the noun *rate* cannot be prefixed by a word that expresses quantity (the phrase *number of rate* or *amount of rate* are clearly *incorrect*). So, the usage of *more* is incorrect.

The correct sentence is:

The rate of economic growth in Developing countries is greater than that in Developed countries.