

Less Vs Fewer: We discussed above that *more* can be used for both *countable* (babies, particles etc.) and *uncountable* nouns (energy, coffee etc.). However, this is not the case with *less* and *fewer*. The rule to be observed is:

Use *less* for *singular* nouns and *fewer* for *plural* nouns.

Water *is*....

Candy *is*....

Potato Salad *is*....

Since we use *singular* verb *is* with the nouns *water*, *candy*, and *potato salad*, we know that these are *singular* nouns. So, we would use *less* with these nouns (*less* water, *less* candy, *less* potato salad)

On the other hand:

Glasses of water *are*....

Potatoes *are*....

Since we use *plural* verb *are* with the nouns *glasses of water* and *potatoes*, we know that these are *plural* nouns. So, we would use *fewer* with these nouns (*fewer* glasses of water, *fewer* potatoes).

So, we use *less* medication, *less* fat, *less* commitment, *less* success, *less* fuel, and *less* carbon-dioxide. However, we use *fewer* movies, *fewer* people, and *fewer* cars.

Same logic would also apply to words that express Time, Money, Distance, and Weight: \$1,000, 20 miles, and 18 hours are all *singular*.

For example, we would always say:

Sam believes that \$1,000 *is* a lot of money.

Jamie feels that 20 miles *is* a long drive for ice cream.

My sister thinks that 18 hours *is* too much time to spend on the road.

Since we use *singular* verb *is* with the nouns *\$1,000*, *20 miles*, and *18 hours*, we know that these are *singular* nouns. So, we would use *less* with these nouns:

Steve had *less* than \$1,000 in the bank.

Peter is *less* than 20 miles away.

My brother can cover the distance in *less* than 18 hours.