

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*).

Special note on Rate: As discussed above, *rate* cannot be *more*. Similarly, *rate* cannot be *faster/slower*. This is because *rate* is a *number* and one number *cannot* be *faster/slower* than another number (for example the number 5 is not *faster* than the number 3).

However, *rate* can *decrease* or *increase* (the way *speed* can increase/decrease); *rate* can be *low/high* (or *lower/higher* if rate is being compared between two entities), *rate* can be *twice/double*, *rate* can *drop/rise/surge*.