

Comparative Writing Prompt Answer Key

Example Paragraph:

I enjoy swimming more than playing basketball because it feels calmer and quieter. Swimming requires **less equipment** and **fewer teammates** than basketball, which makes it easier to do alone. There is **less noise** in the pool than in a gym full of bouncing balls. I also spend **less time** waiting my turn when I swim laps. Overall, I find swimming to be a sport with **fewer distractions** and **less pressure** to compete, which is why I prefer it.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Reinforces correct use of **fewer** and **less** in comparative writing while developing descriptive and analytical skills.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Provide sentence starters like "There are fewer..." or "This activity takes less..." for students who need scaffolding.
 - Offer a visual comparison chart (optional prewriting step) for English learners before they write their paragraph.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Let students choose high-interest topics (e.g., social media platforms, favorite foods, school subjects).
 - Turn this into a peer-editing challenge where partners underline each other's uses of *fewer* and *less* and check for accuracy.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Have students revise their paragraphs to include more complex comparisons or specific examples.
 - Encourage advanced learners to write an opinion article titled "Why One is Better" using at least three correct uses of *fewer* and *less*.