

*Fewer vs. Less***GRAMMAR
LESSON**

The key to knowing when to use *fewer* and when to use *less* is having a firm understanding of mass nouns and count nouns.

Mass nouns are called *non-count nouns* because they are not readily countable as with such words as *music, justice, time, sunbathing, and virtue*.

Count nouns name things that you can count as with such words as *car, books, shoes, and friends*.

Use *less* with mass or non-count nouns, as in, "Once school starts, there is *less* time for sunbathing."

Use *fewer* with count nouns, as in, "Math classes require *fewer* books than English classes do."

NOTE: Mass nouns can often be changed into count nouns by providing a container (which can be counted) or by referring to the item with a different word. For example:

Ice cream is a mass noun, but *ice cream cones* can be counted.

Money is a mass noun, but if it referred to as *dollars*, then it can be counted.

Practice. Read each sentence carefully. Write either *less* or *fewer* in the blank spaces.

Example: My sister ended up with fewer cookies than I did.

1. She takes _____ care of her siblings than is good for them.
2. There are _____ murals in Denver than there are in San Francisco.
3. Radio disc jockeys play _____ rock music than they used to.
4. Radio disc jockeys play _____ rap songs than they used to.
5. Water has _____ calories than soda has.
6. We saw _____ cars by the Grand Canyon than we see every day around Phoenix.
7. The students have _____ minutes to eat lunch now that the class periods are extended.
8. The students have _____ time to eat lunch now that the class periods are extended.
9. Does America have _____ culture than Mexico?
10. Suzie has _____ responsibilities now that her aunt has come to help.
11. The cook suddenly wished she had added _____ soy sauce to the dish.
12. I wish we were given _____ homework.
13. Did you know that I've read _____ than half of the books I own?
14. Tomorrow, class, please bring in _____ leaves than you brought today.
15. I found that I had spilled _____ soda than I thought.
16. I am worried that _____ than six computers will be set up.
17. Jennifer later discovered that her roommate had bought _____ textbooks than she had.