

Use of Less and Fewer

The words “less” and “fewer” have similar meanings. However, they cannot be used interchangeably. Use “fewer” when referring to an amount that can be expressed as a specific number. Use “less” when making comparisons that do not lend themselves to numeric amounts.

Use “fewer” to adjust with a plural noun.

Example: I have fewer papers to write than last year.

There are fewer problems in the updated software than in the original version.

Use “less” to adjust with a singular noun.

Example: You will need less paper if you type your report.

A lighter car will use less gas.

Q. Rewrite the sentences with the correct word in the spaces provided.

a. You’ll make (fewer, less) errors if you take more time.

b. This job is (fewer, less) difficult than I imagined.

c. She bought (fewer, less) clothes for her trip to the North Pole.

d. If the speech had (fewer, less) words it would have been more interesting.

e. The schools installed (fewer, less) computers in the new library.

f. There were (fewer, less) students applying for the study abroad scheme.
