

MAKING COMPARISONS : BETTER, YOUNGER, TASTIER, ETC.

2 importants rules to make comparisons :

The 1st rule is to form the adjective (better, smaller, higher etc.)

The 2nd rule is to construct the full comparison sentence.

Adjective root + ག་ ང་ བ་ པ་ ར་

ག་ — ག་ ང་ — ང་ / བ་ ར་ལ་ — བ་ / ར་

All other suffixes : པ་ / བ་ No suffix : བ་

In most cases, to find the adjective root, it's very simple : you delete the last syllable. Then you can add the right letter depending on the suffix. Let's two examples :

ཡག་པོ་ (good)

We delete the last syllable པོ་

We are left with the root ཡག་

What is the suffix ? ག་

=> ཡག་ག་ (better)

མཐོ་པོ་ (high)

We delete the last syllable པོ་

We are left with the root མཐོ་

What is the suffix ? No suffix

=> མཐོ་བ་ (higher)

Note : You can find a list of adjectives and their comparative forms here.

Object of comparison + ལས་

To be sure of the object of comparison, ask yourself : X is better/taller/higher than what ? The answer is the object of comparison. It's usually what goes after « than » in English.

གཙུག་ལག་ཁང་ལས་པོ་རྒྱ་ལའི་དབྱིབས་ཡག་ག་འདུག

The Potala's form is better than the temple's.
(Compared to the temple, the Potala's form is better.)

སྟོ་བཟང་ལས་ཉི་མ་གཟུགས་པོ་རིང་བ་ཡོད་རེད།

Nyma is taller than Lobsang.
(Compared to Lobsang, Nyma is taller.)

ང་ལས་ངའི་རོགས་པས་བོད་སྐད་ཡག་ག་ཤེས་ཀྱི་ཡོད་རེད།

My friend knows Tibetan better than I do.
(Compared to me, my friend knows Tibetan better.)

མོག་མོག་ལས་འཐེན་ཐུག་ཞིམ་པ་འདུག

Noodle soup is tastier than momos.
(Compared to momos, noodle soup is tastier.)

ཙན་ཙེ་འདི་ལས་པ་གི་མཐོ་བ་འདུག

That table is higher than this.
(Compared to this table, that table is higher.)

རྒྱུ་བ་བརྒྱག་པ་གི་ལས་འདི་བདེ་བ་འདུག

This chair is more comfortable than that.
(Compared to that chair, this chair is more comfortable.)

ཁི་ས་ལས་དེ་རིང་གི་བཀའ་སློབ་ནད་དེ་སྟན་པ་འདུག

Today's talk is so much more interesting than yesterday's.
(Compared to yesterday's, today's talk is so much more interesting.)

ཆང་སྤྱི་རག་ལས་ཞིམ་པ།

Chang is better than beer.
(Compared to beer, chang is better.)
Note : Sometimes the verb is dropped in comparison sentence.

སྟན་ལམ་སང་བཟས་ན་ཡག་ག་འདུག

It is better to take the medicine immediately.
Note : When the object of comparison is implicit, no need for ལས་ :))