

Less, Lesser, Few, and Fewer

Can you use less, lesser, few, and fewer correctly? Test your understanding with this interactive exercise.

1. people make their own bread these days.

Less

Few

Lesser

2. I earn money than a sweeper.

few

less

lesser

3. You have got problems than me.

less

fewer

lesser

4. Choose the of the two evils.

lesser

less

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fewer

5. The easiest way to lose weight is to eat food.

less

fewer

lesser

6. She has friends than her sister.

fewer

less

lesser

7. I would like to spend of my time cooking.

lesser

fewer

less

8. I worry than I used to.

fewer

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less
lesser

9. There were of us at the college reunion.

fewer
less
lesser

10. The script was written by a known writer.

less
lesser
fewer

11. We did work today than yesterday.

lesser
less
fewer

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12. The baby is ugly than you.

less
lesser
fewer

Answers

1. Few people make their own bread these days.
2. I earn less money than a sweeper.
3. You have got fewer problems than me
4. Choose the lesser of the two evils.
5. The easiest way to lose weight is to eat less food.
6. She has fewer friends than her sister.
7. I would like to spend less of my time cooking.
8. I worry less than I used to.
9. There were fewer of us at the college reunion.
10. The script was written by a lesser known writer.
11. We did less work today than yesterday.
12. The baby is less ugly than you.

Explanation

Use fewer for countable things, and less for things you don't count. For example, you can have fewer pages, rocks, lions, or tigers, but less sugar, water, confidence, or sympathy. If you can count it, go for few or fewer. Use few for a small countable amount. If you can't count it, opt for less. Lesser is not a quantifier like less, but an adjective. It means not so serious, great, or important as something else or as other things.