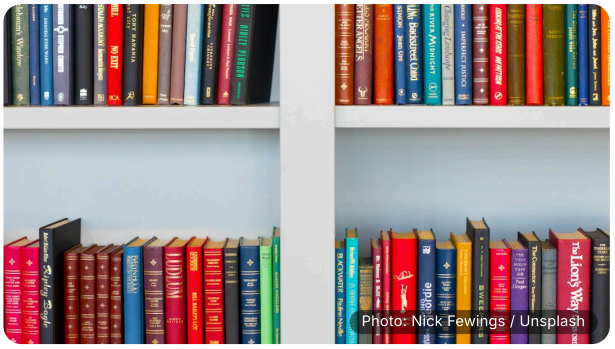
Twenty big novels for winter reading

LEVEL A2/B1


Photo: Nick Fewings / Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Do you like long books or short books? Why?
2. Where do you like to read when it is cold outside?
3. What is a novel you enjoyed, and what was it about?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

cosy
warm, comfortable and safe, especially indoors

recommend
to say something is good and suggest it to others

rewarding
giving a good feeling because it is worth your time

character
a person in a story

classic
a famous old book that many people respect

qualify
to meet the rules to be included

volume
one book in a set of books

publish
to prepare and release a book for people to buy or read

III. READING

The Guardian has published a list of 20 long novels for the cold season. It invites readers to turn off their phone, get cosy, and spend time with a big story. The list recommends books with at least 600 pages. Many readers say longer books can feel more rewarding because you live with the characters for days.

The authors and titles range from classics to modern hits. They include Underworld by Don DeLillo and The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton. The list also has the novel 2666 by Roberto Bolaño, Middlemarch by George Eliot, Villette by Charlotte Brontë, and Dhalgren by Samuel R Delany.

The Lord of the Rings does not qualify, because it was first published as separate volumes. The message is simple: choose one novel, make a hot drink, and enjoy winter with a deeper, slower read.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Light in the dark: 20 long books for short...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many novels are on The Guardian's list?
2. What is the minimum page count for the books on the list?
3. Name two novels on the list.
4. Why does The Lord of the Rings not qualify for the list?
5. What simple advice does the article give for winter reading?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is a longer book more enjoyable for you? Why or why not?
2. Which sounds better for winter: a classic or a modern novel?
3. How can you find more time to read each day?
4. Which title mentioned would you try first, and why?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Comparative adjectives

Use comparatives to compare two things. Short adjectives: -er + than (long → longer than). Long adjectives: more + adjective + than (rewarding → more rewarding than). Irregular: good → better; bad → worse.

> *"Long novels can feel* **more rewarding than** *short ones."*
>
> *"A 600-page book is* **longer than** *a 200-page book."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

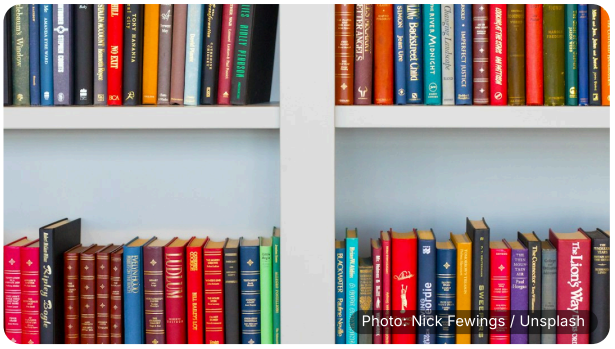
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Winter reading feels (more cosier / cosier) than TV. _____
2. A cosy chair is (better / more good) than the floor. _____
3. Big books seem (more immersive / immersiver) than short ones. _____
4. Winter nights are (more darker / darker) than summer ones. _____
5. Choosing one is (more easy / easier) than choosing two. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Nick Fewings / Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: cosy, recommend, rewarding, character, classic, qualify, volume, publish. If possible, show a 600-page book to visualise length.
- Reading and discussion: Students skim for numbers and titles, then pair-check answers. Keep the discussion on reading habits if students do not know the books.
- Differentiation: Strong readers say in one sentence why long books can feel more rewarding; others explain how they make a cosy place to read. Fast finishers list winter reading tips using comparatives (longer, slower, more relaxing).

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. If answers are short, ask for one reason and one example from their own reading.
2. Take a quick show of hands, then pair students with different choices to compare reasons.
3. Elicit small ideas first (10 minutes earlier, carry a book) before bigger plans.
4. Have students choose a title, then explain in pairs what attracted them: author, length, theme.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Survey: In groups, survey classmates on long vs short books and make a simple chart; present in 2 minutes.

Writing: Write a 70-word winter reading plan: where, when, and which one long novel you will choose.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

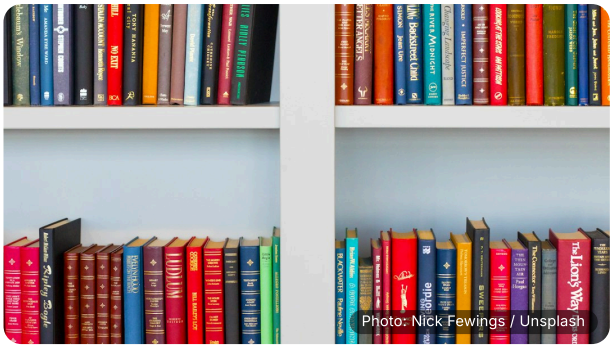
Grammar exercise: Comparative adjectives

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many novels are on The Guardian's list?
   Twenty novels.
2. What is the minimum page count for the books on the list?
   At least 600 pages.
3. Name two novels on the list.
   Possible answers: Underworld; The Luminaries; 2666; Middlemarch; Villette; Dhalgren.
4. Why does The Lord of the Rings not qualify for the list?
   It was first published as separate volumes.
5. What simple advice does the article give for winter reading?
   Choose one novel, make a hot drink, and enjoy a deeper, slower read.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Winter reading feels (more cosier / cosier) than TV. **cosier**
2. A cosy chair is (better / more good) than the floor. **better**
3. Big books seem (more immersive / immersiver) than short ones. **more immersive**
4. Winter nights are (more darker / darker) than summer ones. **darker**
5. Choosing one is (more easy / easier) than choosing two. **easier**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use comparatives to compare two things. Short adjectives: -er + than (long → longer than). Long adjectives: more + adjective + than (rewarding → more rewarding than). Irregular: good → better; bad → worse. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Long novels can feel* **more rewarding than** *short ones."*
>
> *"A 600-page book is* **longer than** *a 200-page book."*