

1. [les] *a*1. *compar om little II*2. 1) **меньший; менее; менее интенсивный, менее значительный** *и т. п.*

to have [to show] less patience [craft, ability, knowledge] than ... - иметь [проявлять] меньше терпения [искусства, умения, знаний], чем ...

less noise, please! - (по)тише, пожалуйста!

in less time - скорее

of less magnitude [importance, value] - менее крупный [важный, ценный]

to grow less - уменьшиться

to find less difficulty - встретить меньше затруднений

2) **меньший (с числами)**

eight is two less than ten - восемь на два меньше, чем десять

3. **менее важный; младший; второстепенный**

no less a person than the manager - сам управляющий, собственной персоной

◇ far /much, still/ less - гораздо /ещё/ меньше, и того менее; не говоря о том; тем более

the baby can't even walk, much less run - малышка не умеет даже ходить, а тем более бегать

nothing /no, little/ less than - не менее чем; по крайней мере; не что иное, как; положительно, прямо-таки [*см. тж. less II* ◇]

I expected nothing less than a reprimand - я ожидал, по крайней мере, выговора

nothing less than monstrous - положительно чудовищный

nothing less than madness - настоящее безумие

his execution was nothing less than murder - его казнь была не чем иным, как убийством

in less than no time - в мгновение ока

may your shadow never be /grow/ less - желаю успеха; желаю вам здравствовать долгие годы

your shadow hasn't grown any less - а) вы ни капельки не похудели; б) вы ничуть не изменились

of two evils choose the less - *посл.* из двух зол выбирай меньшее

2. [les] *adv*1. *compar om little III*2. **меньше, менее**

to have less to eat - хуже питаться

less clever than his brother - не такой умный, как его брат

he was less hurt than frightened - он не столько ушибся, сколько испугался

I cannot take less - я не могу взять меньше

3. **для образования сравнит. ст. прилагательных и наречий менее**

less beautiful [agreeable, curious, difficult, serious] - менее прекрасный [приятный, любопытный, трудный, серьёзный]

less intensely - менее напряжённо

less known - менее известный

◇ nothing less than - отнюдь не, далеко не [*см. тж. less I* ◇]

the road was something less than smooth - дорога была отнюдь не гладкая

none the less - тем не менее

more or less - более или менее; до некоторой степени; приблизительно

to think all the less of smb. - иметь самое плохое мнение о ком-л.

any the less - несколько (*с отрицанием*)

Mary doesn't seem any the less healthy for all her work - Мэри выглядит цветущей, хотя она очень много работает

3. [les] *prep***без**

a year less three days - год без трёх дней

less

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

less *determiner, pronoun, adverb, preposition* *BrE* [les] ^ˈ *NAme* [les] ^ˈ

determiner, pronoun used with uncountable nouns to mean 'a smaller amount of'

- less butter/time/importance
- He was advised to smoke fewer cigarettes and drink less beer.
- We have less to worry about now.
- It is **less of** a problem **than** I'd expected.
- We'll be there in **less than no time** (= very soon) .
- The victory was **nothing less than** a miracle. People often use **less** with countable nouns
- There were less cars on the road then. This is not considered correct by some people, and **fewer** should be used instead.

Word Origin:

Old English læssa, of Germanic origin; related to Old Frisian lēssa, from an Indo-European root shared by Greek loisthos 'last'.

Idioms: †even less ▪ †less and less ▪ †less is more ▪ †no less ▪ †no less than ...

adverb

to a smaller degree; not so much

- less expensive/likely/intelligent
- less often/enthusiastically
- I read much less now than I used to.
- The receptionist was **less than** (= not at all) helpful.

- She wasn't **any the less** happy for (= she was perfectly happy) being on her own.
- That this is a positive stereotype makes it **no less a** stereotype, and therefore unacceptable.

more at more or less **at** ↑**more** adv.

Word Origin:

Old English læssa, of Germanic origin; related to Old Frisian **lëssa**, from an Indo-European root shared by Greek **loisthos** 'last'.

preposition used before a particular amount that must be taken away from the amount just mentioned

Syn: ↑**minus**

- a monthly salary of \$2 000 less tax and insurance
- Send a cheque for the catalogue price, less 10% discount.

Word Origin:

[**less**] Old English læssa, of Germanic origin; related to Old Frisian **lëssa**, from an Indo-European root shared by Greek **loisthos** 'last'.

less

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **less**¹ **S1 W1** /les/ **BrE** ^ˈ **AmE** ^ˈ **adverb**

1. not so much or to a smaller degree **OPP more**:

- Maybe he would worry less if he understood the situation.
- In recent years she has appeared in public less frequently.

less (...) than

- Tickets were less expensive than I had expected.

much/a lot/far less

- Social class matters a lot less than it used to.

not ... any the less/no less (=not less)

- Your second point is no less important.
- It's a common problem but this doesn't make it any the less disturbing.
- I know he's done a dreadful thing, but I don't love him any the less.

be less a ... than a ... (=be not so much like one thing as another)

- 'Will you please come with me?' It was less a request than a command.

2. **less than helpful/honest/enthusiastic etc** not at all helpful, honest etc:

- He was less than enthusiastic about the idea.

3. **less and less** used to say that a quality, situation etc gradually decreases **OPP more and more**:

- As the years went by, he seemed to care less and less about his reputation.
- Smoking in the workplace is becoming less and less acceptable.

4. **much/still less** used to say that a greater thing is even less true, likely, or possible than the thing you have just mentioned:

- These people can scarcely afford to buy food, still less luxury goods like perfume.
- I didn't think Dave would ever read a book, much less write one himself.

II. **less**² **S1 W1** **BrE** ^ˈ **AmE** ^ˈ **determiner, pronoun**

1. a smaller amount or not as much **OPP more**:

- Doctors recommend eating less salt.
- People today seem to have less time for each other.
- Most of us got £4 an hour, but some received even less.

less of

- The map covered less of the area than I'd thought.
- Flying is less of a risk than driving.

less (...) than

- She knows less than I do about it.

less than 10/100 etc

- a distance of less than 100 metres

much/a lot less

- It costs much less to go by bus.

GRAMMAR

Less, not 'fewer', should be used before an uncountable noun:

- Less electricity is used.

► Sometimes people use **less** before a plural noun, but many people think that this is incorrect, so it is better to use **fewer**, especially in writing:

- There are fewer delays (NOT less delays).

2. **no less**

a) used to emphasize that an amount or number is large

no less than

- By 1977, the USA was importing no less than 45% of its oil.

b) used to emphasize that the person or thing you are talking about is important or impressive:

- Our awards were presented by the mayor, no less.
- The message came from no less a person than the prime minister.

3. **nothing less than something** used to emphasize how important, serious, or impressive something is:

- His appearance in the show was nothing less than a sensation.

4. **less and less** a decreasing amount of something **OPP more and more** :

" They began spending less and less time together.

less and less of

" The band was doing less and less of that kind of music.

5. **in less than no time** very quickly or very soon:

" In less than no time they found that they owed over \$10,000.

6. **less of something** *British English spoken* used to tell a child to stop doing something:

" Less of that noise, please!

III. **less**³ *BrE* " *AmE* " *preposition formal*

taking away or not including a particular amount **SYN minus**:

" What is 121 less 36?

" He gave us our money back, less the \$2 service charge.

less

Freakuency Pack

12500 **314**^{MCW}

15000 **131**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k LESS** ²⁹³⁵⁴⁴

less ¹⁵²²⁸⁸

lessen ¹³³³

lessened ⁶⁴⁶

lessening ⁴⁸⁰

lesser ⁴⁷⁸⁹

least ¹³⁴⁰⁰⁸

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

41716 **601**⁶⁵⁰⁹⁴ *dar*

34980 **678**⁵⁷⁷³⁵ *rgr*

21959 **1466**²⁸⁶⁰⁹ *rrr*

669 **26244**⁶⁹⁷ *ii*

53 **105366**⁵³ *rr33*

42 **117309**⁴³ *jj*

30 **137362**³² *nnu*

24 **156584**²⁵ *nn1*