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## Misused Words: Fewer or Less

When dealing with a quantity that can be counted, use the word *fewer*.

I have *fewer* books than she does.

He has *fewer* apples than you do.

If a quantity cannot be counted, use *less*.

There is *less* sugar in this cup.

She has *less* water to drink.

In general, use fewer to modify plural nouns.

I promised to eat *fewer* pancakes at breakfast.

**Exception:** Use *less than* to modify plural nouns that indicate a measure of time, amount, or distance.

I leave in *less than* two weeks.

### Answer Key for Activity

1. fewer
2. less
3. less
4. fewer
5. less
6. fewer
7. less
8. less

### References

Chicago Manual of Style Online. The University of Chicago. 22 January 2010.