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Hi, I'm Sam from BBC Learning English and today we're going to look at the difference between **less** and **fewer** when comparing things.

It's actually very simple. We use **fewer** with countable nouns and **less** with uncountable nouns. But even native speakers get this wrong, so let's have a look at some examples.

I moved recently, and comparing my old area to my new neighbourhood, I can say: There are **fewer restaurants** and **fewer cafes** and there is **less traffic** and **less pollution**.

Cafes and restaurants are countable nouns. You can count them on your fingers and you can make them plural, so we use **fewer**.

Pollution and traffic are uncountable nouns. You can't count them on your fingers and you can't make them plural, so we use **less**.