

Better Than' vs. 'Better Then' – A Guide to Correct Usage

English, as simple as it seems, loves its little tricks. One classic example? The confusion between “**better than**” and “**better then.**” You’ve likely come across these phrases in [conversations](#), texts, or emails and paused for a moment—“Wait, which one is right here?” If so, you’re far from alone.

The good news? Clearing up this confusion is much simpler than you think. By the time you finish reading this, you’ll feel more confident and—yes—communicate **better than** ever before.

To keep these words straight: use 'than' for comparisons and 'then' for anything related to time or sequence.

Want to learn more? Check [example sentences](#) and charts down below.

What We’re Covering Here

- The actual meanings behind “better than” and “better then.”
- Practical examples to make it all click.
- Common mistakes and how to fix them.
- Why **context** changes everything.
- Quick tips to master these phrases for good.

Let’s get started!

The Basics: “Better Than” vs. “Better Then”

The key difference boils down to their **meanings and usage**:

1. **Better than**: This phrase is all about **comparison**. Use it when you’re showing something is superior.
 - *Example*: “This movie is better **than** the first one.”
 2. **Better then**: Here’s where it gets tricky. “Then” has nothing to do with comparisons. Instead, it’s used to indicate **time** or a sequence of events.
 - *Example*: “The weather was better **then** than it is now.”
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Common Mistakes and Easy Fixes

It's no surprise people mix these up—they sound nearly identical. But here's a quick way to decide:

- Are you **comparing** two things? Use **than**.
- Are you referring to **time**? Use **then**.

Examples:

- "She's taller **than** her brother." (comparison)
- "We grabbed lunch, and **then** went for a walk." (sequence)

Simple, right?

Cheat Sheet: Quick Reference for "Than" and "Then"

Usage	Example
Better than (comparison)	"My new car is better than my old one."
Then (time/sequence)	"We'll meet for coffee, and then head home."

Why "Better Than" Makes a Difference in Everyday Speech

Here's something to keep in mind: using "better than" correctly makes your sentences sound polished and precise. Imagine saying, "*This phone is better **then** mine.*" It just feels off, doesn't it?

An easy mental trick:

- "**Than**" = comparison. Picture two things competing—"A is better **than** B."
 - "**Then**" = sequence. Think of time—"First this happened, **then** that."
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How to Master These Phrases Like a Pro

If you want to lock these rules into memory, here are some practical tips:

1. **Pause and Double-Check:** Before writing, ask yourself: *Am I comparing, or talking about time?*
2. **Read Aloud:** When spoken, mistakes often jump out at you.
3. **Practice Regularly:** Write a few sentences using "than" and "then" correctly.

Try These for Practice:

- “Her performance was better **than** I expected.”
 - “We’ll finish this project, and **then** celebrate.”
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A Quick Note on “Better Than”

So, does “**better then**” ever make sense? Rarely—but yes, in specific contexts where **time** is involved. For example:

- “The situation was better **then**, than it is now.”

Here, “then” refers to a specific point in time. That said, most people avoid this phrasing because it sounds awkward.

Conclusion: Small Distinctions, Big Impact

Mastering the difference between “**better than**” and “**better then**” boils down to one thing: **context**.

- Use “**than**” for comparisons.
- Use “**then**” for time or order of events.

Get this right, and your writing and speaking will be clearer, sharper, and more confident.

Remember this simple rule: “**Than**” = **comparison**. “**Then**” = **time**. It’s as straightforward as that.

FAQs: Quick Answers to Common Questions

Q: Is “better than” always correct?

A: Yes, when comparing things. For example, “This pizza is better **than** the last one.”

Q: Can I use “better than” in informal chats?

A: Absolutely—it works in both casual and formal settings.

Q: How can I remember the difference between “than” and “then”?

A: Think of “than” as competition and “then” as a timeline.

Q: Is “better then” ever right?

A: It’s rare, but it works when talking about time (e.g., “It was better **then**, than now”).

Q: Why do people confuse these two so often?

A: Because they sound nearly the same when spoken!

Example Sentences Using Better Than and Then

- Better than or then yesterday**
 - *His performance today was **better than** yesterday's.*
 - *We worked hard, and the results were better **then** than they are now.*
- Better than or then expected**
 - *The test was **better than** expected; I scored much higher than I thought.*
 - *The event went smoothly, but the turnout was higher than expected.*
- Better than or then nothing**
 - *Having a small meal is **better than** nothing when you're hungry.*
- Better than or then me**
 - *She sings **better than** me, and I'm happy to learn from her.*
 - *The situation was better then, than it is now.*
- Better than or then ever**
 - *He's performing **better than ever** after months of practice.*
 - *Back **then**, everything felt better **than ever** in our lives.*
- Better than or then before**
 - *This version of the software is **better than before** with fewer bugs.*
 - *The economy seemed stronger **then** than it does **before** now.*
- Better than or then you**
 - *Nobody understands this concept **better than you**.*
 - *We thought the project looked more promising **then** than it did for you.*
- Better than or then yours**
 - *My presentation turned out **better than yours** because of the visuals.*
 - *Back **then**, the offer they gave me was better **than yours**.*