Demonstrative adjectives and comparisons

In English Demonstrative adjectives point out people and things. They must agree in number with the nouns they refer to. We use this and these for things that are nearby, and that and those for things that are further away.

SINGULAR
this I like this shirt.
that I need that book.

PLURAL
these Do you like these shirts?
those He wants those notebooks.

The following formulas are used to make comparisons with adjectives:

- adjective + -er than
  She is taller than me.
- more + adjective + than
  He is more intelligent than Gunther.
- less + adjective + than
  Roberta is less careful than Monica.
- as + adjective + as
  That tree is as tall as our house.

The adjective + -er than formula is generally used when the adjective is only one syllable long. (quicker than, lighter than, stronger than).

A Circle the demonstrative adjective and indicate whether it is singular or plural. Also underline the phrase that expresses the comparison.

1. (This movie is longer than Ben-Hur.
2. That shirt is more expensive than mine.
3. Those men are as rich as the Vanderbilts.
4. That kid is smarter than Einstein!
5. My backpack is as heavy as those dumbbells.
6. This dress is less stylish than that skirt.
7. You’re as crazy as that March hare.

In Spanish Demonstrative adjectives also point out people and things. They must agree in number and gender with the nouns they describe. We use forms of este for things that are nearby, and forms of ese for things that are further away.

SINGULAR
este/esta this
eses/esa that

PLURAL
estos/estas these
 eso/sas those

¿Te gustan estos zapatos, o prefieres esas sandalias?

Use these expressions to compare things with adjectives. The adjective agrees in gender and number with the first noun in the comparison.

- más + adjective + que
  Ella es más lista que yo.
- menos + adjective + que
  Pedro es menos fuerte que Sansón.
- tan + adjective + como
  Esas chicas son tan altas como tú.
DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES AND COMPARISONS

B Circle the demonstrative adjective and indicate whether it is singular (S) or plural (P), masculine (M) or feminine (F). Underline the phrase expressing comparison.
1. Esa blusa es más pequeña que mi camisa.  
   
2. Estos calcetines son tan largos como esos calcetines.

3. Mi vestido es menos bonito que ese vestido azul.

4. Tu chaqueta de cuero es más cara que esa chaqueta.

5. Esos pantalones cortos son más feos que tus pantalones cortos.

6. Ese sombrero está menos pasado de moda que otros.

7. Esta falda de algodón es menos corta que una minifalda.

C Make sentences with these words and using all of the different comparison formulas. Be sure that the demonstrative adjectives agree with the nouns.

1. Este / profesora joven / estricto / ese / profesor mayor  
   Esta profesora joven es más estricta que ese profesor mayor.

2. Ese / profesores / serio / este / estudiantes

3. Este / clase / divertido / ese / fiesta

4. Este / camisa blanca / bonito / ese / camisa de rayas

5. Esé / aretes / barato / este / collar

6. Este / diccionario / interesante / ese / novela

7. Ese / calcetines de seda / caro / este / bufanda de lana

D 1. Explain the difference in meaning between the following sentences:
   Este zapato es de cuero.
   Ese zapato es de cuero.

2. Do you have trouble telling the demonstratives apart? This saying might help:
   This and these have Ts;  
   that and those don’t.