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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/253/2021_2022__E7_9B_B8_E4_BC_BC_E8_AF_8D_E8_c82_253239.htm less , lesser 这两个词都是little的比较级，都可指“较少”或“较小”。less偏重于“not so much”的意思，而lesser偏重于“not so great或smaller、minor、lower”的意思。它们都可用于数量、重量、程度、重要性、价值等方面。它们最大的区别在于用法及跟其他词语搭配上的不同，二者又不能互掉使用。请比较下面各例：（一）less所修饰的名词是不可数的，且没有冠词在前，如：I received less pay than he . 我收的薪金比他少。 I was given the lesser sum of money . 我得到较少的一份金钱。 I want less sugar for my coffee . 我的咖啡要加少些糖。 I prefer a lesser amount of meat . 我选择较少量的肉食。（二）less可带than，并指二者或多于二者的比较；lesser不用than，而用of，并只限于二者的比较。 These days , I eat less rice than I used to . 近来我比以前少吃饭。 Rice and wheat are two staple foods in China . In the north , rice is the lesser of the two . 米和小麦是中国的两种主要食粮。在北方，米较小麦为次要。（三）涉及程度、价值、重要性等方面时，一般用lesser（指smaller , not so great , minor , lower）：Wealth is of less importance than health . （较不重要） Between health and wealth , the former is of lesser importance . （较次要） I have less difficulty with my work now . （较少困难） In times of political crisis , juvenile delinquency is the lesser difficulty facing the government . （较次要的困难） The accused pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter .

Otherwise , he would have to face murder charges . (较轻的罪状)
The lesser poets are not respected like the great ones . (名气稍逊的诗人)
Compared with fossil fuels , nuclear energy is the lesser evil (the lesser of two evils) . (较轻微的坏事)
Do you know where Lesser Asia (Asia Minor) is ? (小亚细亚)
Tonight , the lesser light (the moon) appears in full splendour .
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