

more(비교급) than vs. over

Some people believe that "more than" and "over" can't be used interchangeably in a sentence. They would say that when you're talking about numbers, you have to use "more than".

- "They've received more than 500 emails today."
- "I've watched more than 20 episodes of Grey's Anatomy in the last 36 hours."
- "We've ordered more than 250 cupcakes for the party."

In the 1800s, a New York Evening Post editor named William Cullen Bryant said he preferred the use of "more than". There's never been a grammatical reason for using "more than" when talking about numerical quantities.

Does anyone still distinguish between "more than" and "over"?

At this point, most major grammar and style authorities agree that you can use "more than" and "over" interchangeably. But this doesn't mean that everyone does. Some people are so attached to the traditional "rule" that they can't let it go. And it's not just octogenarian copyeditors who are clinging to the distinction between "more than" and "over".

(different source)

Many grammar experts believe that in countable numerical expressions you should use:

- "more than" rather than "over"
- "older than" rather than "over"
- "younger than" rather than "under".

Usage changes with time and I think it's OK to say:

Over 87 people responded.

More than 87 people responded.

She's over 45.

She is older than 45.

You can't drive if you're under 16.

You can't drive if you're younger than 16.