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# Not more than

TLDR Version: Including "before" in such cases is fine, but rarely necessary. In thinking about your question, I found myself pondering again on "Grice's Maxims of Communication". These maxims are intended to encapsulate the tacit "rules" of cooperative communication. Not only are we supposed to follow these principles when we speak or write, we are supposed to assume that others are following them too, which guides our interpretation of what they are saying. Here's your example sentence: "More than ever, marketers require data ... to better understand their customers." Meanwhile, Grice's maxims may be summarised as: Maxim of Quality: Only say truthful things. Maxim of Quantity: Say all that is required, but not more than is required. Maxim of Relation: Be relevant. Maxim of Manner: Be clear. At least the first and second are relevant in this case. If a word isn't necessary in order to get our point across, then according to the Maxim of Quantity, it would be sensible to omit it unless doing so leads us into conflict with the other maxims (most obviously by making things ambiguous so running into the Maxim of Manner). So if we can omit the word "before" we almost certainly should. But cutting in the other direction, as a matter of logic, "More than ever" really means "Now more than ever" and "ever" means "all times" and "all times" includes "now" so we may, as a matter of more logic, interpret the original clause as either equivalent to or as including each of the following: "More than ever ...", "Now more than ever ...", "Now more than at all times ...", "Now more than at all times including now ...", "Now more than now ...". Doubtless in reading that set of clauses, you found either the move from 2 to 3 or from 3 to 4 rather jarring. But if you are persuaded by the logical connections, you'll see that since 5 is clearly nonsense, and would seem to be included by 1, 1 is also, strictly speaking, nonsense. And if you speak nonsense, then you're flouting Grice's Maxim of Quality. So we ought to expand the clause to: "More than ever before ..." right? I certainly see no problem with that. And there may be odd cases where it is advisable. But actually, suppose we do omit the "before" ... Then what will our audience think? Well, they need to assume the writer/speaker is at least trying to follow the maxims, and isn't likely to wanting commit themselves to the version beginning with 5. So as their audience for such a sentence, we'd be a very uncharitable reader/listener if we didn't assume they meant to be contrasting the present with past times rather than with all times. And since we can generally rely on our listeners to be sympathetic listeners, we can in fact omit the word "before" entirely. It became acceptable to omit it simply because in order to understand us at all, the audience has to suppose we mean to assume it. Now, a note of caution. Technically, to avoid being nonsense the we only need to avoid contrasting "now" with "now". There may be odd cases where "more than ever" might actually be used to mean any of the following: "more than ever before" "more than ever again" "more than ever before or ever again" And in such cases, if there are any, in order to be clear (and follow the Maxim of Manner) we must make sure that we do include the extra word to avoid being misinterpreted. Hello, I'm a Japanese learner of English, and a newbie of this forum. Actually, I registered just a minute or two ago. Anyway, a friend of mine has been telling me that there's some difference between "no more than" and "not more than" in meaning, but others told me the other way around. Which is correct? I've got really confused. If somebody helps me out, it will be much appreciated. For a starter, I've come up with a set of sentences in comparison. In my opinion, fathers cannot love their children more than mothers do. 2a) In my opinion, fathers can no more love their children than mothers do. 2b) In my opinion, fathers can love their children no more than mothers do. 2c) In my opinion, fathers cannot love their children any more than mothers do. Many thanks in advance. Cheers. Since there are so many English words that are spelled the same or nearly the same, keeping track of all of them can be difficult. Many writers confused the words then and than. For a detailed discussion of the differences between these words, review the Writing Explained article "Then vs. Than: What's the Difference?" Instead, this article will focus on the differences between the phrases more then and more than. If you have ever wondered whether you should be using more then or more than in your writing, continue reading. What is the Difference Between More Than and More Then? In this article, I will compare more than vs. more then. I will use each in a sentence, and then I will also give you a helpful trick to assist you in deciding whether you should be using more than or more then in your own writing. When to Use More Than What does more than mean? More than is a phrasal preposition, where it is equivalent to over when describing an amount that is greater than another number. Less than or equal to' can also be expressed as at most, no more than, a maximum of, and not exceeding. Observe the following figure to see the symbol that shows a 'less than' sign with a sleeping line under it. Less Than or Equal To Symbol in Word Let us understand the less than or equal to symbol in words with an example. James works at a departmental store, and he is paid on an hourly basis. He can work for a maximum of 8 hours per day. Do you know what's meant by the term maximum, here? This means James can work for less than or equal to 8 hours per day in the store. If one day, he worked for 2 hours, it is under the condition of his working which says he must work less than or equal to 8, and we know 2 is less than 8, which satisfies the condition. Less Than or Equal To Meaning We come across certain statements involving the signs '<' and '>' which are called inequalities. Both inequalities have different meanings. We can easily understand them by comparison. Here are some comparisons of these symbols and their examples along with their meanings. Symbol Example Meaning Less than or equal to,  $\leq$   $x \leq 7$  The value of x is less than or equal to 7.  $-5 \leq x \leq 3$  The value of x should lie between  $-5$  and  $3$  inclusive of both values. Greater than or equal to,  $\geq$   $x \geq 2$  The value of x is greater than or equal to 2.  $2 \geq x \geq -1$  The value of x should lie between  $-1$  and  $2$  inclusive of both values. Inequalities like less than or equal to and greater than or equal to are represented in a different way on a number line. To denote these, we use the closed circle to mark the limit value and point the arrow towards the given condition of inequality. Let us see this in a number line given below: We can see that when we want to denote x less than or equal to  $-5$ , we marked a close circle at  $-5$  and pointed an arrow towards the values less than  $-5$ , as suggested in the condition of inequality. Similarly, when we want to denote x greater than or equal to  $-2$ , we marked a close circle at  $-2$  and pointed an arrow towards the values greater than  $-2$ , as suggested in the condition of inequality. Less Than or Equal to Related Topics Check out the interesting topics to learn more about less than or equal to, and its related topics. Following are the notes that help in the concept of less than or equal to. Example 1: A classroom can occupy 60 study tables at the most. Express this statement using the less than or equal to symbol. Solution: Let's represent the number of study tables by the variable x. It is given that the classroom can occupy a maximum of 60 study tables. So, this can be represented by a simple inequality,  $x \leq 60$  Therefore, the condition is represented as  $x \leq 60$ , where x is the number of tables. Example 2: Charles had 18 chocolates which he was going to distribute to his friends on his birthday. Since the box was open, he lost some chocolates on the way. If x is the number of chocolates that Charles currently has, write an inequality that represents this situation. Solution: Number of chocolates Charles had initially = 18 Since he lost some chocolates, the number of chocolates with him currently is less than  $18$   $x < 18$  ... (1) We know that the number of chocolates should be a non-negative quantity. Hence,  $x \geq 0$  This inequality can also be written as:  $0 \leq x$  ... (2) From the inequalities (1) and (2),  $0 \leq x < 18$  Therefore, the number of chocolates Charles has is represented as  $0 \leq x < 18$ . Example 3: Jolly's teacher asked her to find the numbers that belong to the set as shown on the blackboard. Can you help her? Solution: We know that Z is the set of integers. The given set is:  $\{x \in Z | x \leq 4\}$  This means that we have to find all the integers that are less than or equal to 4. Since the set of integers is infinite, the numbers that belong to the given set are:  $\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$  Therefore, the numbers in the given set are  $\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ . View More > go to slidego to slidego to slide Break down tough concepts through simple visuals. Math will no longer be a tough subject, especially when you understand the concepts through visualizations. Book a Free Trial Class FAQs on Less than or Equal to Less than or equal to is represented by the symbol  $\leq$ . So if we want to write x is less than or equal to 6, we write it as  $x \leq 6$ , which means that x can have any value from negative infinity to 6 but not more than 6. What Does Less Than or Equal To Mean? Less than or equal to means that you can't have more than something, you must have either less than or equal to the given limit. 'Less than or equal to', as the name suggests, means a number is either less than or equal to another number. 'Less than or equal to' can also be expressed as at most, no more than, a maximum of, and not exceeding. What is the Symbol for Less Than 1? Less than 1 can be represented as  $< 1$ . This means that a value is always less than 1, hence, it can never be equal to or higher than 1. What is the Difference Between Less Than and Less Than or Equal To? The inequality 'less than' is represented by the symbol  $<$  whereas the inequality 'less than or equal to' is represented as  $\leq$ . The inequality 'less than' means that some variable or number can have any value that is less than the given limit, not more than that or equal than that limit, but the inequality 'less than or equal to' states that the number or variable can be equal or less than the given limit. Here, the inclusion of the limit is the difference. What is an Example of Less Than or Equal To? If we have an inequality:  $x \leq 4$ , this means that we have to find all the integers that are less than or equal to 4. Since the set of integers is infinite, the numbers that belong to the given set are:  $\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ . What is Another Word for Less Than or Equal To? 'Less than or equal to', means something is either less than or equal to another thing. 'Less than or equal to' can also be expressed as at most, no more than, a maximum of, and not exceeding. FLOCK TO THIS QUIZ ON AMAZING ANIMAL ADJECTIVES NOW! Forget feline and canine, we have a wild and sensational quiz on adjectives based on animals that you are sure to go ape over. The word "caprine" refers to ... TAKE THE QUIZ TO FIND OUT Meet Grammar CoachImprove Your Writing Meet Grammar CoachImprove Your Writing more!, Morelia, morello, Morelos, Morelos y Pavón, more often than not, more or less, moreover, morepork, more power to someone, Morera's theoremThe American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.regularly, customarily, routinely, mostly, sometimes, generally, ordinarily, commonly, consistently, occasionally, frequently, normally, often, habitually, typically, naturally, mainly, now and then, and as a rule, as usualIf anything the work the two cops and the maintenance guy were doing deserves more respect and probably helped a lot more people.Madame Ratignolle, more careful of her complexion, had twined a gauze veil about her head.The Awakening and Selected Short Stories|Kate ChopinI waited three months more, in great impatience, then sent him back to the same post, to see if there might be a reply.The Boarded-Up House|Augusta Huiell SeamanBernard stood there face to face with Mrs. Vivian, whose eyes seemed to plead with him more than ever.He was too drowsy to hold the thought more than a moment in his mind, much less to reflect upon it.The Wave|Algernon BlackwoodThe vision—it had been an instantaneous flash after all and nothing more—had left his mind completely for the time.The Wave|Algernon BlackwoodFEEDBACK © 2021 Dictionary.com, LLC

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