

COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES



Comparatives and Superlatives



Introduction

Comparatives and *Superlatives* are special forms of adjectives. They are used to compare two or more things. Generally, comparatives are formed using **-er** and superlatives are formed using **-est**.



Comparatives and Superlatives



One-syllable adjectives.

Form the comparative and superlative forms of a one-syllable adjective by adding **-er** for the comparative form and **-est** for the superlative.

One-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
tall	taller	tallest
old	older	oldest
long	longer	longest

Mary is **taller** *than* Max.

Mary is **the tallest** *of* all the students.

Max is **older** *than* John.

Of the three students, Max is **the oldest**.

My hair is **longer** *than* your hair.

Max's story is **the longest** *story I've ever heard*.

Comparatives and Superlatives



If the one-syllable adjective ends with an **e**, just add **-r** for the comparative form and **-st** for the superlative form.

One-Syllable Adjective with Final -e	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
large	larger	largest
wise	wiser	wisest

Mary's car is **larger** *than* Max's car.

Mary's house is **the tallest** *of* all the houses on the block.

Max is **wiser** *than* his brother.

Max is **the wisest** *person I know*.

Comparatives and Superlatives



If the one-syllable adjective ends with a single consonant with a vowel before it, double the consonant and add **-er** for the comparative form; and double the consonant and add **-est** for the superlative form.

One-Syllable Adjective Ending with a Single Consonant with a Single Vowel before It	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
big	bigger	biggest
thin	thinner	thinnest
fat	fatter	fattest

My dog is **bigger** *than* your dog.

My dog is **the biggest** *of* all the dogs in the neighborhood.

Max is **thinner** *than* John.

Of all the students in the class, Max is **the thinnest**.

My mother is **fatter** *than* your mother.

Mary is **the fattest** *person I've ever seen*.

Comparatives and Superlatives



Two-syllable adjectives.

With most two-syllable adjectives, you form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **most**.

Two-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
peaceful	more peaceful	most peaceful
pleasant	more pleasant	most pleasant
careful	more careful	most careful
thoughtful	more thoughtful	most thoughtful

This morning is **more peaceful** *than* yesterday morning.

Max's house in the mountains is **the most peaceful** *in* the world.

Max is **more careful** *than* Mike.

Of all the taxi drivers, Jack is **the most careful**.

Jill is **more thoughtful** *than* your sister.

Mary is **the most thoughtful** *person I've ever met*.

Comparatives and Superlatives



If the two-syllable adjectives ends with **-y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **-er** for the comparative form. For the superlative form change the **y** to **i** and add **-est**.

Two-Syllable Adjective Ending with -y	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
happy	happier	happiest
angry	angrier	angriest
busy	busier	busiest

John is **happier** today *than* he was yesterday.

John is **the happiest** boy *in* the world.

Max is **angrier** *than* Mary.

Of all of John's victims, Max is **the angriest**.

Mary is **busier** *than* Max.

Mary is **the busiest** *person I've ever met*.

Comparatives and Superlatives



Two-syllable adjectives ending in **-er**, **-le**, or **-ow** take **-er** and **-est** to form the comparative and superlative forms.

Two-Syllable Adjective Ending with -er, -le, or -ow	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
narrow	narrower	narrowest
gentle	gentler	gentlest
clever	cleverer	cleverest

The roads in this town are **narrower** *than* the roads in the city.

This road is the **narrowest** *of* all the roads in California.

Big dogs are **gentler** *than* small dogs.

Of all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are **the gentlest**.

Comparatives and Superlatives



Adjectives with three or more syllables.

For adjectives with three syllables or more, you form the comparative with more and the superlative with most.

Adjective with Three or More Syllables	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
generous	more generous	most generous
important	more important	most important
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent

John is **more generous** *than* Jack.

John is **the most generous** *of* all the people I know.

Health is **more important** *than* money.

Of all the people I know, Max is **the most important**.

Women are **more intelligent** *than* men.

Mary is **the most intelligent** *person I've ever met*.

Comparatives and Superlatives



Exceptions.

Irregular adjectives.

Irregular Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
little	less	least
many	more	most

Italian food is **better** *than* American food.

My dog is **the best** dog *in* the world.

My mother's cooking is **worse** *than* your mother's cooking.

Of all the students in the class, Max is **the worst**.

Comparatives and Superlatives



Two-syllable adjectives that follow two rules. Some adjectives can be used with **-er** and **-est** and with **more** and **most**.

Two-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
clever	more clever	most clever

Cats are **cleverer** *than* dogs.

Of all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are **the cleverest**.

Cats are **more clever** *than* dogs.

Of all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are **the most clever**.

