

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

FORM

One-syllable adjectives

To form the comparative add *-er* and to form the superlative add *-est* to adjectives such as *cheap, clean, dark, light, slow* and *tall*...

tall taller the tallest

Add *-r* or *-st* to adjectives ending in *-e* such as *large, late, strange, nice, safe*...

safe safer the safest

Double the final consonant and add *-er* or *-est* to adjectives ending in one vowel and one consonant such as *hot, fat, big, sad*...

hot hotter the hottest

Regular adjectives with two syllables and more

Change *-y* to *-i* and add *-er* or *-est* to adjectives ending in *-y* such as *easy, lazy, noisy, happy, funny*...

easy easier the easiest

Use *more* or *most* in front of the other two-syllable adjectives.

tiring more tiring the most tiring

You will see either form used in a limited number of adjectives such as *clever, common, cruel, gentle, narrow, polite, quiet, simple, stupid* and *tired*;

cleverer OR more clever

the cleverest OR the most clever

However, if in doubt it is safer to use the *more / most* form;

Use *more* or *most* in front of all adjectives with more than two syllables such as *beautiful, expensive, intelligent, comfortable, interesting*...

expensive more expensive the most expensive

Irregular adjectives

good better the best

bad worse the worst

far further/farther the furthest/the farthest

USE We use comparatives and superlatives to show how people or things are different in some way. We normally use comparatives to compare two things. Comparatives show more of a quality or characteristic. We use *than* in sentences where two people or things are compared using a comparative adjective.

I am **faster than** John.

She is **taller than** me.

We use superlatives to talk about a person or thing who has more of a particular quality than all others of their type. We always use the infinitive article *the* before superlative forms.

Who is **the richest** person in the world?

Rio de Janeiro is one of **the most beautiful** cities in the world.

FORM: AS + ADJECTIVE + AS

We can compare two things which are equal with *as + adjective + as*. We can add *just* for emphasis.

For me chemistry is **(just) as difficult as** physics.

We can use *not so / as + adjective + as* to compare things instead of the comparative form of the adjective with *than*.

Big differences and small differences

Small differences : a little, a bit, slightly, not quite, almost, nearly

The blue chair is **a little more expensive than** the red one.

I'm **nearly as old as** Bob.

Big differences : a lot, much, far, not nearly

Mexico City is **a lot bigger than** Rome.

A DVD is **far better than** a video for watching films.

FORM : LESS...than, the LEAST

We can also use these forms to show differences;

Life in the past was **less comfortable than** it is now.

Jack is **the least hard-working** boy in the class.

ADVERBS

We can compare adverbs in a similar way to adjectives.

I left school **earlier than** you.

You didn't leave school **as early as** I did.