

# **SUPERLATIVES GRAMMAR REFERENCE – BRITISH X AMERICAN ENGLISH – COMPARATIVES**



(fonte: Freepik)

## **What you will find in this class:**

### **British and American English**

#### **Mark ( Hampshire, England)**

‘ I’m going to rake up the leaves in the garden, then get a DVD for tonight from the shop on the High Street, unless you’d rather go to cinema. There’s no point cleaning the house now because Simon’s got his mates coming round to watch the football, and the last time they left crisps all over the carpet!’

#### **Mark ( New Hampshire, United States)**

My buddy Jim must be one of the most accident-prone people in the world. Last year he went to hospital four times – first he broke his toe playing soccer, then he tripped over and broke his wrist when he was walking out of a store on Main Street, then he burnt himself at a barbecue here in your yard, then he somehow got a potato chip stuck in his throat at the movie theatre!’

### **British**

Biscuit

Lorry

Puncture

Rubbish bin

Ground Floor

Caretaker

Tin

Zip

Windscreen

Undergroud ( train system )

## **American**

Cookie

Truck

Flat

Trash can

First floor

Janitor

Can

Zipper

Windshield

Subway

Torch

Payrise

Curtains

Note ( money )

Bill ( in a restaurant )

Boot ( of a car )

Cooker

Return ( ticket )

Single ( ticket )

Postbox

Flashlight

Raise

Drapes

Bill

Check

Trunk

Stove

Round trip

One-way

Mailbox

## Comparatives - Meaning and use

We use **comparatives** to compare one person or thing with another person or thing.

- *My new phone is **smaller than** my old phone.*
- *The film is **more exciting than** the book.*
- *He's **better than** me at tennis.*

We use **superlatives** to compare one person or thing with several other people or things of the same kind. Superlatives tell us which thing or person is the greatest in some way.

- *It's **the smallest** room in the house.*
- *We've got **the cutest** dog in the world.*

- *Antarctica is **the coldest place** on Earth.*

## Comparatives

We make comparatives in two ways: by adding **-er** to an adjective or by putting **more** in front of the adjective. We often use the word **than** after the comparative, but not always.

*David is **older than** Juan.*

*Who is **more famous** – Brad Pitt or Benedict Cumberbatch?*

We add **-er** to adjectives with one syllable, but if the adjective ends in **-e**, just add

**-r.**

*old – **older***

*small – **smaller***

*nice – **nicer***

*wide – **wider***

If an adjective ends in one vowel and one consonant, **double the consonant** and add

**-er** (except when the final consonant is 'w').

*hot – **hotter***

*big – **bigger***

*new – **newer***

*few – **fewer***

If an adjective has two syllables and ends in **-y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **-ier**.

*happy – **happier***

*noisy – **noisier***

*easy – easier*

We put **more** before other adjectives with two or more syllables.

*Sit in the chair – it's **more comfortable** than the sofa.*

*A tablet is **more useful** than a desktop.*

### **Take note: (not) as ... as**

To say that two things or people are similar in some way, use **as + adjective + as**.

*I think that skiing is **as dangerous as** snowboarding.*

We can use **not as + adjective + as** to say that two things or people are not equal in some way.

*Isabel is not **as successful as** her sister.*

### **Superlatives**

We make superlatives in two ways: by adding **-est** to an adjective or by putting **most** in front of the adjective. We usually use **the** before the superlative.

*Usain Bolt is probably **the fastest** man in the world.*

*It's **the cheapest** restaurant in town.*

If an adjective has one syllable, add **-est** to form the superlative, but if the adjective already ends in **-e**, just add **-st**.

*high – **highest***

*small – **smallest***

*nice – **nicest***

*wide – widest*

If an adjective ends in one vowel and one consonant, **double the consonant** and add

**-est** (except when it ends in **-w**)

*hot – hottest*

*big – biggest*

*new – newest*

If an adjective has two syllables and ends in -y, **change the 'y' to 'i'** and add **-est**

*happy – happiest      funny – funniest*

We put **most** before adjectives with two or more syllables.

*It's the **most beautiful painting** I've ever seen.*

### **Take note: superlative and present perfect**

We often use the superlative with the present perfect.

- *It's the **most delicious** meal I've ever had.*
- *Anna is **the friendliest** girl he's ever met.*

### **Remember!**

After superlative adjectives, we usually use **in**, not **of**.

*He was the tallest person **in** his family.*

### **Take note: irregular comparatives and superlatives**

Some adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

good – better – best

bad – worse – worst

*It's the **best** film I've seen in a long time.*

*It's the **worst** winter in history.*

## Indirect questions

### Meaning and use

There are two ways to ask questions in English – directly and indirectly. Both have the same meaning, but we use **indirect questions** if we want to sound more formal or polite, especially when we are talking to people we don't know.

(direct question) *What time is it?*

(indirect question) *Could you tell me what time it is?*

When we create indirect questions, the thing we are asking about becomes part of a longer question. And we use introductory phrases such as:

*Can/could you tell/show me ...?*

*Do you know ...?*

*Would you mind telling/showing me ...?*

*Have you any idea ...?*

*I wonder ...*

*I wonder if you would mind telling/showing me ...?*



This is followed by either a question word, such as **what, who, when, where, how**, or by **if/whether**, and then the information we want to know. The word order changes from the order of a direct question. Indirect questions have the same word order as statements.

(direct question) *Where is the photocopier?*

(indirect question) *Do you know where the photocopier is?*

If we are making an indirect question from a direct question which already contains a question word, like **what, who, when, where or how**, we keep that same question word.

(Direct question) - **What** is the dress code in the office?

(Indirect question) - *Could you tell me **what** the dress code is in the office?*

If the direct question doesn't have a question word, then we use **if** or **whether** in the indirect question. We can use these interchangeably, although **if** is a little more informal.

(Direct question) - *Is the coffee for everyone?*

(Indirect question) - *Could you tell me **if** the coffee is for everyone?*

## **Form**

Indirect questions have the same word order as statements:

**introductory phrase + if or whether/question word + subject + verb**

Look at the following:

(statement) - *The meeting is at two.*

(direct question) - *When is the meeting?*

*(indirect question) - Do you know when the meeting is?*

*(indirect question) - Do you know if the meeting is at two?*

Notice that the subject and verb in indirect questions after the question word **when** or **if/whether** are in the same order as in statements, i.e. **subject + verb**

*(subject) (verb)*

***The meeting is ...***

***... the meeting is***

In the direct question, however, the order is: **verb + subject** after the question word.

***When is the meeting ?***

**Take note: *do, does and did***

In the present and past simple, we use **do/does** or **did** to make direct questions. When we make indirect questions in the present and past simple, we don't use these auxiliaries.

*(direct question) - What time **does** the meeting **start**?*

*(indirect question) - Can you tell me what time the meeting **starts**?*

*(direct question) - Why **did** you **leave** your last job?*

*(indirect question) - Can you tell me why you **left** your last job?*

(direct question) - **Did** Mr Yenke **ring** yesterday?

(indirect question) - Do you know if Mr Yenke **rang** yesterday?

## THE POSSESSIVE CASE

O **Possessive Case** ou **Genetive Case** é formado pela adição do apóstrofo (') e **s** ao substantivo. Usamos esta forma possessiva apenas para pessoas e animais.

Ex: The Book of John -> John's book.

Colocamos o possuidor como sujeito de sentença, em seguida um apóstrofo (') e S e o objeto possuído.

- Quando houver dois ou mais possuidores e apenas uma coisa a ser possuída, usa-se apóstrofo (') apenas no último dos possuidores.

Ex: The book of John and Mary. -> John and Mary's book.

- Se houver dois possuidores e mais de uma coisa a ser possuída, usa-se apóstrofo nos dois possuidores.

Ex: The books of John and Mary-> John's and Mary's books.

- Quando o possuidor não for um nome próprio e estiver no plural terminado em s, usa-se apenas o apóstrofo ('), sem o s.

Ex: The books of boys. -> The boys' books.

- Quando o possuidor for um nome próprio terminado em s, usa-se apóstrofo (') e pode-se usar o s ou não.

Ex: The book of Cris. -> Cris' book ou Cris's book.

- Quando o possuidor não for nem uma pessoa, nem um animal, não se usa 's , usa-se of.

Ex: The top of **mountain**.

Ou pode-se colocar o possuidor antes do possuído.

Ex: The **mountain** top.

## POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES (1)

NOUN	POSSESSIVE	EXAMPLE
I	<b>my</b>	<b>My</b> name is Sandra.
you	<b>your</b>	What's <b>your</b> name?
he	<b>his</b>	<b>His</b> name is John.
she	<b>her</b>	<b>Her</b> computer is fast.
it	<b>its</b>	My car is old, so <b>its</b> engine isn't powerful.
we	<b>our</b>	<b>Our</b> apartment is in the city center.
they	<b>their</b>	My parents sold <b>their</b> house.
Mary	<b>Mary's</b>	<b>Mary's</b> phone number is 555-4321.

Joe	<b>Joe's</b>	<b>Joe's</b> favorite color is green.
the boy	<b>the boy's</b>	The <b>boy's</b> clothes are dirty.
friends	<b>friends'</b>	My <b>friends'</b> names are Patrick and Gloria.
cat	<b>cat's</b>	My <b>cat's</b> name is Ginger.
country	<b>country's</b>	My <b>country's</b> flag is red, white, and blue.

**Don't confuse its (possessive) with it's (contraction for "it is")!**

The cat ate it's food (wrong)

**The cat ate its food. (correct)**

Its illegal for a 17-year-old to buy alcohol. (wrong)

**It's illegal for a 17-year-old to buy alcohol. (correct)**

## **POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES (2)**

Possessive adjectives are used to show possession or ownership of something. While we use them when we refer to people, it is more in the sense of relationship than ownership.

The **possessive adjectives** in English are as follows:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Possessive Adjective</b>

I	My
You	Your
He	His
She	Her
It	Its
We	Our
You (pl)	Your
They	Their

The possessive adjective needs to agree with the possessor and not with the thing that is possessed.

### Examples

- **My** car is very old.
- **Her** boyfriend is very friendly.
- **Our** dog is black.
- **Their** homework is on the table.

Like all adjectives in English, they are always located directly in front of the noun they refer to. (Possessive Adjective + Noun)

We do not include an S to the adjective when the noun is plural like in many other languages.

### Examples:

- **Our** cars are expensive. (Correct)  
**Ours** cars are expensive. (**Incorrect**)

However, the verb that is used needs to be in agreement with the noun - if the noun is singular then the verb is singular; if the noun is plural then the verb is plural.

### Examples:

- My **pen is** black. (Singular)  
My **pens are** black. (Plural)
- Our **child is** intelligent. (Singular)  
Our **children are** intelligent. (Plural)

### Its vs. It's

Be careful not to confuse **its** and **it's**.

Its = The possessive adjective for It.

It's = a contraction of it is.

## POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

**Possessive pronouns** are used in English to avoid repeating information that is already clear. In general it makes the sentence less confusing because the same information is not being repeated.

This book is *my book*, not *your book*. (Sounds repetitive)

This book is **mine**, not **yours**. (Mine and yours are **possessive pronouns**)

In the sentence, **mine** is a possessive pronoun that replaces *my book*.

In the sentence, **yours** is a possessive pronoun that replaces *your book*.

The **possessive pronouns** in English are as follows:

Subject	Possessive Pronouns
I	Mine
You	Yours
He	His
She	Hers
It	Its
We	Ours
You (pl)	Yours
They	Theirs

### Examples:

- I didn't have my umbrella so Marta lent me **hers**.  
(I didn't have my umbrella so Marta lent me her umbrella).
- Her car is faster than **mine**.  
(Her car is faster than my car).
- That food is **ours** and not **theirs**.  
(That food is our food and not their food).
- I know this drink is **yours** but I need to drink something.  
(I know this drink is your drink but I need to drink something).

**Remember that with possessive pronouns there are no apostrophes (').**



## Of yours

It is also very common to say a friend/some friends + of + possessive pronouns.

- I saw one of your friends last night.  
I saw a friend **of yours** last night.

Both of these sentences are correct and both common in English.

## Yours faithfully - Yours sincerely

**Yours** is also used in English with *faithfully* or *sincerely* at the end of a formal letter or e-mail. The two common expressions are:

- Yours faithfully (If it someone that you don't know)
- Yours sincerely (If it is someone that you know)

## CRÉDITOS

BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

BRITISH COUNCIL

FREEPIK

## REFERÊNCIAS

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/basic-grammar-guide>  
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<https://www.britishcouncil.org.br/atividades/ingles/recursos-professores>  
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<https://www.bbc.com/future/bespoke/follow-the-food/how-covid-19-is-changing-food-shopping.html> acesso em 17 de junho de 2020

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