

## Comparing in English

When you want to make a comparison in English, you can either use the comparative or the superlative forms.

You can use **the Comparative Form** when you want to compare two elements (objects, persons, places...):

*Noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + than + noun (object).*

### Examples:

- My house is larger than hers.
- This box is smaller than the one I lost.
- Your dog runs faster than Jim's dog.
- The rock flew higher than the roof.
- Jim and Jack are both my friends, but I like Jack better. ("than Jim" is understood)

When you want to compare one element to a group of elements, you can use **the Superlative Form** :

*Noun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + noun (object).*

### Examples

- My house is the largest one in our neighborhood.
- This is the smallest box I've ever seen.
- Your dog ran the fastest of any dog in the race.
- We all threw our rocks at the same time. My rock flew the highest. ("of all the rocks" is understood)

### Forming regular comparatives and superlatives

Forming comparatives and superlatives is easy. The form depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective.

### One syllable adjectives

Add -er for the comparative and the -est for the superlative. If the adjective has a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

Adjectives	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	the tallest
fat	fatter	the fattest
big	bigger	the biggest
sad	sadder	the saddest

### Two syllables adjectives

Adjectives with two syllables can form the comparative either by adding -er or by preceeding the adjective with more. These adjectives form the superlative either by adding -est or by preceeding the adjective with most. In many cases, both forms are used, although one usage will be more common than the other. If you are not sure whether a two-syllable adjective can take a comparative or superlative ending, play it safe and use more and most instead. For adjectives ending in y, change the y to an i before adding the ending.

Adjectives	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	The happiest
simple	simpler	The simplest
busy	busier	The busiest
tilted	more tilted	The most tilted
tangled	more tangled	The most tangled

### Three or more syllables

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting more in front of the adjective, and the superlative by putting most in front.

Adjectives	Comparative	Superlative
important	more important	The most important
expensive	more expensive	The most expensive

### Irregular comparatives and superlatives

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms.

Adjectives	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	further / farther	furthest / farthest

Difference further/ farther: you can use “farther” when discussing a physical distance ( “He went farther down the road.”) You can use “Further” when discussing a more symbolic distance or to discuss a degree or extent, as in “I wanted to discuss it further, but we didn't have time”.

### The Comparative Form of Inferiority:

For both short or long adjectives: less+adjective+ noun:

He is less tall than his brother

This new sofa is less comfortable than my old sofa.

The Superlative Form of Inferiority:

For both short or long adjectives: The least +adjective+ noun:

The least cool item in the list was...

The least successful sale of the year was...

The Comparative Form of Equality:

For both short or long adjectives: as+adjective+as...

She is as tall as her father

She is as intelligent as her sister