

## HELP box

### Superlatives

- We form the superlative of one-syllable and most two-syllable adjectives by adding **-est**.  
*cheap* → **the cheapest**  
*clever* → **the cleverest**
- Some two-syllable adjectives (including those ending in **-ing**, **-ed**, **-ful** and **-less**) form the superlative with **the most/least**.  
*advanced* → **the most advanced**
- Adjectives with three or more syllables also take **the most/least**.  
*fantastic* → **the most fantastic**  
*powerful* → **the least powerful**
- But two syllable adjectives ending in **-y** (for example, **noisy**) take **-est** and the **y** changes to **i**.  
*noisy* → **the noisiest**
- Note the irregular forms:  
*good* → **the best**  
*bad* → **the worst**  
*little* → **the least**  
(with amounts, not size)

Look at the HELP box and then complete these sentences using the comparative form of the adjective in brackets.

- A laser printer is generally (quiet) \_\_\_\_\_ than a low-cost inkjet printer.
- Multi-function printers are now only slightly (expensive) \_\_\_\_\_ than conventional printers, and offer much (great) \_\_\_\_\_ versatility.
- The print quality of this network printer is noticeably (good) \_\_\_\_\_ than any inkjet, and as (good) \_\_\_\_\_ as similar laser printers.
- The Agfa platesetter is (reliable) \_\_\_\_\_ and (easy) \_\_\_\_\_ to use than most printers of its type.
- Your printer is only as (good) \_\_\_\_\_ as the paper you use.
- The final result is always (accurate) \_\_\_\_\_ than the original image.
- An imagesetter is (heavy) \_\_\_\_\_ than a laser printer.

B Complete these sentences with the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- Always buy the (fast) \_\_\_\_\_ scanner with the (high) \_\_\_\_\_ resolution you can afford.
- They have created the (revolutionary) \_\_\_\_\_ camera to date.
- FotoFinish is the (easy) \_\_\_\_\_ photo editing software for your digital camera.
- This scanner gives you the (good) \_\_\_\_\_ scans with the (little) \_\_\_\_\_ effort.
- Our university has bought the (modern) \_\_\_\_\_ computer equipment.

## HELP box

### Comparatives

- We form the comparative of one-syllable adjectives by adding **-er**.  
*slow* → **slower**  
*Inkjet printers are slower than laser printers, but much cheaper.*
- Two-syllable adjectives usually take **more/less**.  
*modern* → **more modern**  
*They're designing a more modern version at the moment.*
- Adjectives ending in **-y** (for example, **noisy**) take **-er** and the **y** changes to **i**.  
*Dot-matrix printers are noisier than inkjets.*
- We form the comparative of adjectives with three or more syllables by adding **more/less**.  
*versatile* → **more versatile**  
*... they're cheaper and more versatile than standalone products.*
- Note the irregular forms:  
*good* → **better**  
*bad* → **worse**  
*little* → **less**  
*If you want better results, you'll need specialized software.*
- Equality is expressed by using **as ... as**. Difference can be shown by using **not as ... as**.  
*This is as fast as many other printers in its class.*  
*Inkjets are not as expensive as laser printers.*

## KEY LANGUAGE

## Comparison

### Comparative and Superlative forms

as big as

**bigger** than

**the biggest**

as expensive as

**more / less** expensive than

**the most / least** expensive

### Expressing similarities and differences

→ A similarity / difference between X and Y is that ...

→ Both X and Y are / have ... Only X is / has ...

→ X is similar to Y. X is / has the same ... as Y.

→ X is / has ... whereas Y ...

→ X is different from Y. X is / has (a) different ... from Y.

**29** Look at the details of three computers (desktop, tablet, netbook). Write sentences making comparisons between them using the following adjectives:

• cheap / expensive • big / small • fast / slow • wide / narrow • heavy / light



processor	3.5 GHz	1.2 GHz	1.5 GHz
hard disc	1 terabyte	32 MB	250 GB
screen	24"	8"	11"
weight	10 kg	500 g	1.5 kg
price	€ 950	€ 400	€ 300