

Comparative Structures

Comparatives & Superlatives			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use comparatives to compare two people, places, things or actions ➤ Use the + superlative to say which is the fastest, smartest, etc. in a group ➤ We often use the + superlative with the present perfect + ever (<i>This is the most beautiful city I've ever been to.</i>) 			
Rules	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
most adjectives with 1 syllable: + -er, the + -est	<i>cheap</i>	<i>cheaper</i>	<i>the cheapest</i>
adjectives with 1 syllable ending in -e: + -r, the + -st	<i>nice</i>	<i>nicer</i>	<i>the nicest</i>
adjectives with 1 syllable ending in 1 vowel + 1 consonant: double consonant + -er, the + -est exception: <u>don't</u> double 'w'	<i>thin</i> <i>big</i> <i>low</i>	<i>thinner</i> <i>bigger</i> <i>lower</i>	<i>the thinnest</i> <i>the biggest</i> <i>the lowest</i>
adjectives with 2 syllables ending in -y: i + -er, the + -est	<i>happy</i> <i>busy</i>	<i>happier</i> <i>busier</i>	<i>the happiest</i> <i>the busiest</i>
most other adjectives with 2 or more syllables: more, the + most + adjective	<i>beautiful</i> <i>relaxed</i>	<i>more beautiful</i> <i>more relaxed</i>	<i>the most beautiful</i> <i>the most relaxed</i>
irregular forms:	<i>good</i> <i>bad</i>	<i>better</i> <i>worse</i>	<i>the best</i> <i>the worst</i>
negative forms: less, the + least + adjective	<i>beautiful</i> <i>happy</i>	<i>less beautiful</i> <i>less happy</i>	<i>the least beautiful</i> <i>the least happy</i>

Making Comparisons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Comparative + than → <i>Athens is older/more interesting than Rome.</i> (<i>Athen ist älter/interessanter als Rom.</i>) ➤ (not) as ... as → <i>Tom is as old as Jim.</i> (<i>Tom ist gleich alt wie (so alt wie) Jim.</i>) / <i>Rome is not as old as Athens.</i> (<i>Rom ist nicht so alt wie Athen.</i>) ➤ After comparative + than or as...as we use an object pronoun (me, her, etc.) or a subject pronoun + auxiliary verb, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>My brother's taller than me.</i> (not "...taller than I") / <i>My brother's taller than I am.</i> - <i>He's not as intelligent as her.</i> (not "...as she") / <i>He's not as intelligent as she is.</i>

A) Complete the table.

adjective	comparative	superlative
thin		
dangerous		
safe		
easy		
bad		
pretty		
important		
dirty		
slow		
famous		

B) Choose a comparative or a superlative.

- Brazil is _____ South American country. (big)
- I think Annie is _____ person in our class. (intelligent)
- This coffee is very weak. I like it a bit _____ (strong)
- The kitchen is _____ room in the house. (hot)
- Your work is insufficient. I'm sure you can do _____ (good)
- Jupiter is _____ planet in the solar system. (large)
- Don't be pessimistic. The situation could be _____ (bad)
- You're too near the camera. Can you move a bit _____ away?
(far)

C) Write sentences with *as... as...*

(Example: Athens is older than Rome. Rome isn't as old as Athens.)

- My room is bigger than yours. Your room isn't _____.
- You got up earlier than me. I didn't _____.
- We played better than them. They didn't _____.
- I've been here longer than you. You haven't _____.
- London is more expensive than Basle. Basle _____.

D) Put in **as** or **than**.

1. I don't watch TV as much _____ you.
2. You eat more _____ me.
3. I feel better _____ I felt yesterday.
4. Jim isn't as clever _____ he thinks.

E) Write sentences with a superlative (the longest etc.) by using the words in the boxes.

Example: Sydney is the largest city in Australia.

Sydney	Brazil	large	country	planet	the USA	the solar system
Everest	Jupiter	long	city	state	Africa	South America
Alaska	the Nile	high	river	mountain	the world	Australia

1. Everest _____ .
2. Alaska _____ .
3. Brazil _____ .
4. Jupiter _____ .
5. The Nile _____ .

Comparative Structures – KEY

A)

adjective	comparative	superlative
thin	thinner	the thinnest
dangerous	more dangerous	the most dangerous
safe	safer	the safest
easy	easier	the easiest
bad	worse	the worst
pretty	prettier	the prettiest
important	more important	the most important
dirty	dirtier	the dirtiest
slow	slower	the slowest
famous	more famous	the most famous

B)

1. the biggest
2. the most intelligent
3. stronger
4. the hottest
5. better
6. the largest
7. worse
8. farther (further)

C)

1. as big as mine
2. get up as early as you
3. play as well as us
4. been here as long as me
5. is not as expensive as London

D)

1. as
2. than
3. than
4. as

E)

1. Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
2. Alaska is the largest state of the USA.
3. Brazil is the largest country in South America.
4. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system.
5. The Nile is the longest river in Africa.