

Academic English L3 (Модуль 2. Английский язык для академических целей L3) (1 semester)

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Grammar theory: comparative and superlative adjectives

I. General information

One-syllable and **some two-syllable** adjectives take **-er** and **-est** to form comparatives:

e.g. hot - hotter - hottest, thin - thinner - thinnest

happy - happier - happiest

Two-syllable and **more syllable** adjectives take **more** and **most** to form comparatives:

e.g. hopeful - more hopeful - most hopeful

difficult - more difficult - most difficult

Some two-syllable adjectives have both **-er/est** and **more/most degree**:

e.g. polite - politer/more polite - politest/most polite

quiet - quieter / more quiet - quietest/most quiet

Adjectives in the superlative degree are used with the **definite article**:

e.g. He is **the best** player in the team. Who of the boys is **the strongest**?

II. Spelling

If an adjective ends in **-e**, it takes **-r** and **-st** to form comparatives:

e.g. wide - wider - widest

nice - nicer - nicest

In **one-syllable** adjectives before the endings **-er** and **-est** the **consonant** is **doubled**:

e.g. big- bigger - biggest

fat - fatter - fattest

Y changes to **I** before the **-er** and **-est** endings if **preceded by a consonant**:

e.g. eas**y** - eas**i**er - eas**i**est

heav**y** - heav**i**er - heav**i**est

Y doesn't change if **preceded by a vowel**:

e.g. g**a**y - g**a**yer - g**a**yest

III. Irregular comparative forms:

Good - better - the best

Bad - worse - the worst

Much/many - more - the most

Little - less - the least

Old - older/elder - the oldest/eldest

Near - nearer - the nearest (meaning "the shortest distance away")/next (refers to one of a sequence)

Far - farther/further (also meaning "more or additional") - the farthest/ furthest (meaning "the greatest distance away")

Late - later - the latest (meaning "newest")

Late - latter - the last (meaning "final")

IV. There are certain structures in which comparison is expressed:

1) **as...as:**

E.g. The boy was as sly as a monkey. Мальчик был хитер как обезьяна.

Today it is as windy as it was yesterday. Сегодня так же ветрено, как и вчера.

2) **not so...as, not as...as:**

E.g. You are not as nice as people think. Вы не так милы, как о вас думают.

Silver is not as heavy as gold. Серебро не такое тяжелое как золото.

3) **...-er than, -est of/in/ever:**

E.g. He looked younger than the others. Он выглядел моложе остальных.

My Latin class is more boring than my English class. Уроки латыни скучнее, чем уроки английского.

It's the biggest risk I've ever had to take. Это самый большой риск, на который я когда-либо шел.

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. Эверест - самая высокая гора в мире.

4) **the...the...:**

E.g. The sooner this is done, the better. Чем раньше это будет сделано, тем лучше.

The older we grow, the wiser we become. Чем старше мы становимся, тем мы мудрее.

V. Non-gradable adjectives:

Some adjectives have no degrees of comparison, they are non-gradable. They express extreme or absolute qualities:

e.g. furious, terrified, dead, perfect

With ungradable adjectives only intensifiers are used to stress the extreme or absolute nature of these adjectives:

e.g. It's **extremely freezing** today. He is **utterly terrified**.

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