

DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Comparing 2 similar things (similarity)

FORM:

- **X + tobe + as adjective as + Y**

- The price in this restaurant is as cheap as in that restaurant
- The view in mountain is as beautiful as in the beach.
- The traditional food is as delicious as modern food.

Comparing 2 different things (comparative)

FORM:

- **X + tobe + (more + adjective) + than + Y**
(adjective + er)

- Sue is taller than her sister.
- Her sister is friendlier than Sue
- She is more beautiful than her sister.

Comparing more than 2 things (superlative)

FORM:

- **X + tobe + the (more + adjective) + (noun)**
(adjective + er) (-)

- Sue is the tallest person in the class.
- Among Jeff, Will and Sean, Jeff is the richest.
- Mr. Ali is the most charming teacher among all teachers.

The rules of adjective comparison

There are three forms of comparison:

- positive
- comparative
- superlative

A - Comparison with -er/-est

example:

clean - cleaner - (the) cleanest

We use -er/-est with the following adjectives:

1) Adjectives with one syllable

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| clean | cleaner | cleanest |
| new | newer | newest |
| cheap | cheaper | cheapest |

2) Adjectives with two syllables and the following endings:

2 - 1) Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -y

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| dirty | dirtier | dirtiest |
| easy | easier | easiest |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| pretty | prettier | prettiest |

2 - 2) Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -er

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| clever | cleverer | cleverest |

We use -er/-est with the following adjectives:

1) Adjectives with one syllable

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| clean | cleaner | cleanest |
| new | newer | newest |
| cheap | cheaper | cheapest |

2) Adjectives with two syllables and the following endings:

2 - 1) Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -y

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| dirty | dirtier | dirtiest |
| easy | easier | easiest |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| pretty | prettier | prettiest |

2 - 2) Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -er

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| clever | cleverer | cleverest |

2 - 3) Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -le

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| simple | simpler | simplest |

2 - 4) Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -ow

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|----------|-------------|-------------|
| narrow | narrower | narrowest |

3) Spelling of the adjectives using the endings -er/-est

| positive | comparative | superlative | comment |
|----------|-------------|-------------|--|
| large | larger | largest | leave out the silent -e |
| big | bigger | biggest | Double the consonant after short vowel |
| sad | sadder | saddest | |
| dirty | dirtier | dirtiest | Change -y to -i (consonant before -y) |
| shy | shyer | shyest | Here -y is not changed to -i. (although consonant before -y) |

B.Comparison with more - most

| positive | comparative | superlative |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|
| difficult | more difficult | (the) most difficult |

all adjectives with more than one syllable (except some adjectives with two syllables - see 2 - 1 to 2 - 4)

PRACTICE 1

Fill the missing gaps with the correct words of degrees of comparison.

- John is 190 cm. Jim is 170 cm. John is _____ than Jim.
- My phone costs me IDR 2 million. My brother's phone is IDR 5 million. My brother's phone is _____ than my phone.
- John has \$ 3 million. Bill has \$ 5 million. Liam has \$ 2 million. Bill is _____ person among them. The _____ person among them is Liam.
- Ferrari runs 180 km per hour. Honda runs 120 km per hour. Honda is _____ Ferrari.
- Sally always smiles when she meets people, while Juliet never. Sally is _____ than Juliet.
- Bandung's weather is 25 centigrade. Malang's is also 25 centigrade. Surabaya is 30 centigrade. Bandung is _____ as Malang. Surabaya is _____ than both Bandung and Malang.
- I like watching, but I don't like reading. For me, watching _____ reading.
- Luis' English score is 97. Lee's English score is 80. Jason's English score is 90. Luis's English score _____ among all. Jason's English score _____ Lee's. Lee's English score _____ among all.
- I love Pizza. In my opinion, Pizza _____ food in the world.
- Because I am an Indonesian, for me the _____ beautiful country in the world is Indonesia.