

● **Comparatives and superlatives / so, such, enough, too**

Comparative and superlative adjectives

	adjective	comparative	superlative
regular adjectives with one syllable	<i>black</i>	+ -er <i>blacker</i>	+ -est <i>blackest</i>
regular adjectives with one syllable (ending in vowel + consonant)	<i>thin</i>	double final letter + -er <i>thinner</i>	double final letter + -est <i>thinnest</i>
regular adjectives with two syllables (ending in -y)	<i>funny</i>	replace -y with -ier <i>funnier</i>	replace -y with -iest <i>funniest</i>
regular adjectives with two or more syllables	<i>intelligent</i>	more / less + adj <i>more intelligent</i>	most / least + adj <i>most intelligent</i>
irregular adjectives / quantifiers	<i>good</i> <i>bad</i> <i>far</i> <i>little</i> <i>much</i> <i>many</i>	<i>better</i> <i>worse</i> <i>farther / further</i> <i>less</i> <i>more</i> <i>more</i>	<i>best</i> <i>worst</i> <i>farthest / furthest</i> <i>least</i> <i>most</i> <i>most</i>

Use	Example
Comparative To compare things or people that are different	The crime rate in this area is higher than in other parts of the country.
Superlative To compare one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	The robbery was the biggest in the bank's history.

Watch out!

- Regular adjectives with two syllables can often also form the comparative and superlative like adjectives with one syllable.
✓ **clever, cleverer, cleverest**
- Adjectives with one syllable that end in -e add -r and -st.
✓ **white, whiter, whitest**
- Remember that comparative forms are often followed by *than*.
✓ *Crime is a much **bigger** problem in this country **than** in many other countries.*
- Remember that superlative forms are often preceded by *the*.
✓ *Our local police force is **the best** in the country.*

Comparative and superlative adverbs

	adverb	comparative	superlative
regular adverbs	<i>easily</i>	more / less + adv <i>more easily</i>	most / least + adv <i>most easily</i>
irregular adverbs	<i>badly</i> <i>early</i> <i>far</i> <i>fast</i> <i>hard</i> <i>late</i> <i>often</i> <i>near</i> <i>soon</i> <i>well</i>	<i>worse</i> <i>earlier</i> <i>farther / further</i> <i>faster</i> <i>harder</i> <i>later</i> <i>more often</i> <i>nearer</i> <i>sooner</i> <i>better</i>	<i>worst</i> <i>earliest</i> <i>farthest / furthest</i> <i>fastest</i> <i>hardest</i> <i>latest</i> <i>most often</i> <i>nearest</i> <i>soonest</i> <i>best</i>

Use	Example
Comparative To compare actions that are different	Lock your door more carefully next time and maybe you won't get burgled!
Superlative To compare actions of one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	Only the criminal who ran fastest managed to escape from the police.

So

Form *so* + adjective + *that*
 so + adverb + *that*
 so + *many/much* + noun + *that*

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action	<i>The burglar was so clever that no one could catch him.</i> <i>Jane took the money so quickly that no one saw her.</i> <i>There was so much money that the robber couldn't carry it all.</i>

Watch out!

- The word *that* is not usually necessary to introduce the second clause.
 ✓ *The crime rate is **so** high people are very frightened.*
- The word *so* has a number of other uses. Try not to get confused between them.
 ✓ *The crime rate is **so** high **that** people are very frightened.*
 ✓ *I saw that burglar leaving the house, **so** I called the police.*

Such

Form *such* + *a/an* + adjective + singular noun + *that*
 such + adjective + plural noun + *that*
 such + *a lot of* + noun + *that*

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action	<i>It was such a terrible crime that the man was sent to prison for life.</i> <i>The security guard had such good hearing that he heard the door open immediately.</i> <i>There is such a lot of crime here that the police can't cope.</i>

Enough

Form *enough* + noun (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 adjective + *enough* (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 adverb + *enough* (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action where there is/isn't the right amount/number of something	<i>There aren't enough police officers on the streets to keep us safe.</i> <i>It wasn't dark enough for the burglar to start working.</i> <i>Did the police respond quickly enough to help?</i>

Watch out!

- A common mistake is to put *enough* before an adjective when the correct word is *quite* or *fairly*.
 ✓ *It's **quite** / **fairly** dangerous around here so don't go out alone.*
 ✗ *It's **enough** dangerous around here so don't go out alone.*

Too

Form *too* + adjective (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 too + adverb (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 too + *many/much* + noun (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)

Use	Example
To describe something that is more than necessary and which has a negative effect	<i>The young man was too young to go to prison.</i> <i>We arrived too late for the start of the trial.</i> <i>We send too many innocent people to prison.</i>

Watch out!

- We do not use *too* when we want to describe something we consider to be positive. Instead, we use *very*, *really* or *extremely*.
 ✓ *You were **very** / **really** / **extremely** lucky not to get caught.*
 ✗ *You were **too** lucky not to get caught.*

A Complete using the comparative forms of the words in capitals.

- 1 Your brother is much (**TALL**) than mine.
- 2 This island used to be much (**GREEN**) before the forest fires.
- 3 Slow down! You're (**FIT**) than me and I can't keep up!
- 4 Veronica seems (**HAPPY**) since she moved schools.
- 5 It's actually (**TRENDY**) to wear your hair up this year.
- 6 As the time for the performance got nearer, I got (**NERVOUS**).
- 7 Old people are often (**WISE**) than young people.
- 8 Why don't you try and find a (**CHEAP**) computer game and save some money?
- 9 Matt seems to have got even (**LAZY**) than he used to be and almost never studies.
- 10 If the problem gets any (**SERIOUS**), we may need to inform the manager about it.
- 11 If you work (**QUICKLY**), you'll finish sooner and then you can go home earlier.
- 12 Ben says he's feeling much (**WELL**) after his illness.
- 13 I have even (**LITTLE**) free time this year than I did last year.
- 14 The news was much (**BAD**) than anyone had feared.
- 15 You'll need to be able to run (**FAR**) than this if you're going to do the marathon.

B Complete using the superlative forms of the words in capitals.

- 1 I think Mohammed Ali was the (**GREAT**) boxer that ever lived.
- 2 It was the (**BORING**) film I had ever seen.
- 3 Our teacher told us that the student with the (**HIGH**) mark would get a prize.
- 4 Ginger is one of the (**LUCKY**) cats alive – he's been hit by a car three times and has never been hurt!
- 5 Out of all the students in my music school, I practise (**OFTEN**).
- 6 The Pacific is the (**DEEP**) ocean in the world.
- 7 That's the (**UGLY**) fish I've ever seen!
- 8 I was ill before the exam and I did (**BADLY**) out of the whole class.
- 9 The (**FAR**) I've run in one day is about ten kilometres.
- 10 Don't you think this would be the (**LOVELY**) spot for a picnic?
- 11 But that's the (**CRAZY**) idea I've ever heard!
- 12 I asked the assistant to show me the (**MODERN**) phone they had.
- 13 I told the manager that it was the (**BAD**) hotel I had ever stayed in.
- 14 Who do you think is the (**LITTLE**) talented actor to win an Oscar?
- 15 Out of all the members of the choir, Jason sang (**WELL**).

C Circle the correct word.**FILM REVIEW**

Crime Does Pay, the (1) **later** / **latest** comedy from director Sam Martin, has to be one of the (2) **little** / **least** interesting films I have ever seen. The acting is terrible and the story is much (3) **worse** / **worst** than Martin's other flop, *Escape*. *Crime Does Pay* was apparently (4) **more** / **most** expensive than any other film this year, but it's hard to see where the money went. The plot concerns a gang of burglars who decide to steal the (5) **more** / **most** valuable painting in the world. Fine, except these criminals are far (6) **less** / **least** amusing than they should be. There isn't a single real laugh in the whole movie. When I saw it, even (7) **younger** / **youngest** members of the audience thought it was stupidly childish. Dean Richards, playing Scarnose, does a slightly (8) **better** / **best** job than the others, but there isn't much in it. When will Hollywood realise that as ticket prices get (9) **higher** / **highest**, more people are finding that the (10) **well** / **best** form of entertainment is to spend an evening at home with a DVD?

D Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words in each gap.

- 1 I have never read a better book than this one. **ever**
This is the read.
- 2 Nobody has ever been this far into the jungle. **the**
This is has ever been into the jungle.
- 3 I have never worked so hard in my whole life. **ever**
It was the in my whole life.
- 4 Liam is the tallest boy in the class. **than**
Every other boy in the class Liam.
- 5 This is the nicest beach along this part of the coast. **than**
This the others along this part of the coast.
- 6 I read that Mount Everest is the highest mountain. **no**
I read that Mount Everest.
- 7 Has anyone ever been this far north before? **the**
Is has ever been?
- 8 The painting Ed did is the ugliest one you can imagine. **than**
You can't imagine the one Ed did.
- 9 This stamp is rarer than any other in my collection. **more**
The other stamps in my collection this one.
- 10 Nobody in the class runs as fast as Pedro. **runner**
Pedro in the class.

E Rewrite each sentence using *so... that*.

- 1 John can see over the wall because he is tall.
.....
- 2 I'm sure my sister will go to university because she is clever.
.....
- 3 I can't stop playing this computer game because it's good.
.....