

Comparatives and superlatives

SKILLS

LEVEL
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_2133G

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can correctly use adjectives to describe people.
- Can determine how to form comparatives and superlatives of adjectives.







Preview and warm-up

In this lesson you are going to learn how to form **comparatives** and **superlatives** from **adjectives**.



Ben is **taller than** Hillary.



Vocabulary review

tall

loud

kind

nice

rude

fair

curly



lazy



Vocabulary review



Emily is **tall**.

My colleague James is **loud**.



Doctors need to be **kind**.

My boss Mary is really **nice**.





Vocabulary review



It is **rude** to shout at people at work.

Lawyers need to be **fair**.



Jade has **curly** hair.

Jerry is **lazy** at work.





Speaking

Ask and answer these questions with your classmates.



1

Who has curly hair in your office?

2

Which of your colleagues is really kind?

3

Are any of your colleagues very loud?



Regular comparative adjectives

When we **compare two things**, we use **comparatives**.

To make regular **comparative adjectives**, we usually **add -er** to the adjective.

If the adjective ends in **e**, we just add **r**.

Adjective	Comparative
tall	taller
nice	nicer
kind	kinder
fair	fairer
rude	ruder



Adjectives ending in y

If an **adjective** ends in **y**, we **change the spelling**.
We **remove** the **y**, and **add -ier** to the end of the adjective.

Adjective	Comparative
curly	curlier
lazy	lazier
happy	happier
easy	easier



Than

If we **compare** two things, we can use the structure **adjective + *than***.
Look at the example sentences below.

David is	taller	than	Matthew.
Mary is	nicer	than	Paula.
I am	kinder	than	my boss.
My hair is	curlier	than	Samantha's.
My boss is	lazier	than	my colleague.



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the comparative adjective and the word *than*.

1. Mary is _____ (nice) Peter.
2. Hayley is _____ (tall) her boss.
3. My new boss is _____ (kind) my old boss.
4. Claire's hair is _____ (curly) Amelia's.
5. Jack is _____ (happy) Tom.





Compare the pictures

Use the word below the picture to make a comparative sentence.



tall



loud



kind



curly



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Then, compare with your classmates.

1. Basketball players are _____ than jockeys.
2. Doctors are _____ than lawyers.
3. Entertainers are _____ than librarians.
4. IT technicians are _____ than architects.



Writing

Think about two of your colleagues. Write four comparative sentences about them.

A blank sheet of white paper with horizontal lines and a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing.





Speaking

Share what you have written on the previous page with the class.



taller than

nicer than



Regular superlatives

When we **compare three or more** things, we use **superlatives**.
To form **regular superlative adjectives** we add **-est** to the adjective.
We also always use **the** before a **superlative**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	the tallest
nice	nicer	the nicest
kind	kinder	the kindest
fair	fairer	the fairest
rude	ruder	the rudest



Regular superlatives

To form **superlative adjectives** when the adjective **ends in y**, we **remove** the **y** and **add -iest** to the adjective.

As before, we always use **the** before a **superlative**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
curly	curlier	the curliest
lazy	lazier	the laziest
happy	happier	the happiest
easy	easier	the easiest



Superlatives

Look at these example sentences using **superlatives**.



Jordan has **the curliest** hair in our office.

Fred is **the tallest** of my colleagues.



Petra is **the fairest** lawyer I know.

English is **the easiest** language to learn!





Fill in the table

Fill in the table with the adjectives, comparatives or superlatives.

nice

the loudest

curlier

happy

kinder





Complete these conversations using the superlative form of the adjective

1. Chris is very tall.

→ Yes, he's the tallest person I know.

2. Mary is very kind.

→ _____

3. Spanish is an easy language to learn.

→ _____

4. Alex is always rude.

→ _____

5. Joanna is really short.

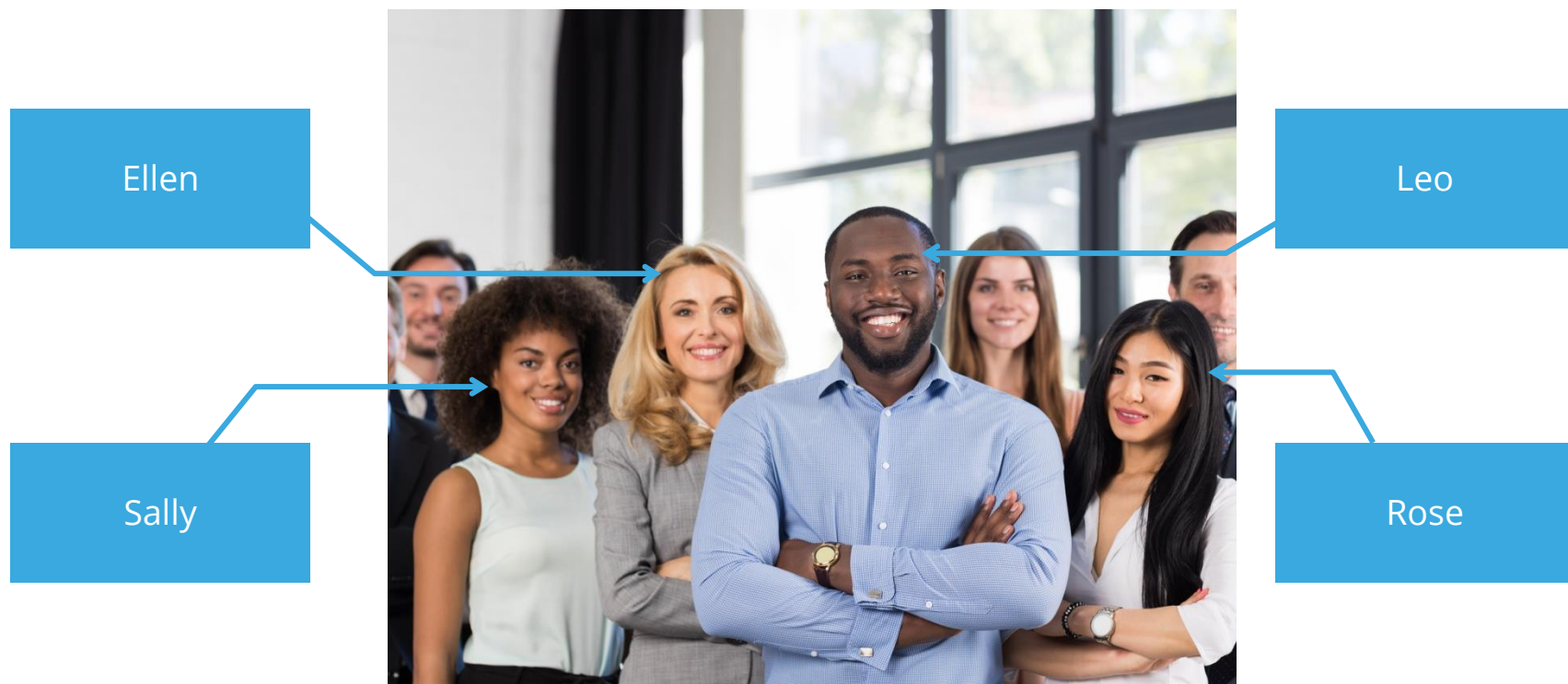
→ _____



Superlatives

Look at the picture on this page. Pay attention to Ellen, Sally, Leo and Rose.

On the next page, decide if the sentences are true or false.





True or false

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Leo is the tallest person in the picture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ellen is the shortest person in the team.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Rose has the curliest hair.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Leo and Rose have the darkest hair.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Sally has the longest hair.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Speaking

Imagine what these people are like with your classmates.
Make four sentences comparing them.

Stefan

Emma

Sophie



Ruth

Karl



Writing

Think about four of your colleagues. Write five sentences comparing them. You can compare two of the people or all of the people.

- If you compare two people, use comparatives.
- If you compare all of the people, remember to use superlatives.

taller than

the laziest

nicer than

the happiest

the kindest



Speaking

Share the sentences you have written with one of your classmates.





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p. 12

1. nicer than, 2. taller than, 3. kinder than, 4. curlier than, 5. happier than

Exercise p. 13 – 14

Students' own answers

Exercise p. 20

nicer, the nicest - loud, louder - curly, the curliest - happier, the happiest - kind, the kindest

Exercise p. 21

2. Yes, she's the kindest person I know, 3. Yes, it's the easiest language to learn, 4. Yes, he's the rudest person I know, 5. Yes, she's the shortest person I know.

Exercise p. 23

1. T, 2. F (Rose), 3. F (Sally), 4. T, 5. F (Rose)





Complete the table with the adjectives, comparatives or superlatives

lazy	
	fairer
tall	
	the easiest
rude	





Writing

**Write 6 sentences comparing some of the people in your family.
Use the adjectives below, or any other adjectives from the
lesson.**

nice

kind

tall

loud

rude

curly





Homework answer key

Exercise p. 31

lazier, the laziest – fair, the fairest – taller, the tallest – easy, easier – ruder, the rudest



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