

GRAMMAR

Comparatives and superlatives

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_3062G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can identify and distinguish between comparatives and superlatives.
- I can use comparatives and superlatives to talk about sports from around the world.



Warm-up

In the chat, type the name of the sport that is the most popular to watch in your country.

How similar is your answer to those of your classmates?



Who am I?

1. **Read** four athletes describing their careers.
2. **Match** the athletes to their descriptions. Which sports did they/do they play?

1 Serena Williams

2 Michael Jordan

3 Simone Biles

4 Pelé

A

I have the highest points per game average in the sport's history. I dominated the sport for much of the 80s and 90s and was awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the Finals a total of six times! Who am I?

B

I became the youngest player to win the World Cup when Brazil won in 1958; I also have the most assists in World Cup history! I was the most popular player of my time. Who am I?

C

I have won more medals at international competitions than any other competitor. I've competed in three Olympic Games, winning seven medals. I am the most decorated athlete in my sport of all time. Who am I?

D

I am one of the strongest and most powerful players to have ever played the game. I've won the most Grand Slam singles titles by any player in my sport. My latest victory was in 2017. My career continued much longer than many believed was possible! Who am I?



I am the most decorated athlete in my sport **of all time**.

He was the most popular player **of his time**.

Who do you think is the greatest athlete **of all time**?

What is something that was popular in **your parents' time**?



Discuss

Answer the question in the yellow box in breakout rooms or together as a class.

**Which sport(s) do you think is
(are) more popular in your country
than in the United States?**



football (soccer)



skiing



tennis



cricket

Review: Comparatives

Review the information below.

Comparatives are used to express how two things or people are different.

e.g.: *I have won more medals at competitions than any other competitor.*

- Adjectives with one syllable: add **-er**
- Adjectives with two or more syllables: add **more**
- Form negative comparatives with **less** + **adjective** + **than**



When an adjective ends in **-e**, we add **-r**

- *wide* → *wider*
- *late* → *later*

When an adjective ends in **-y** after a consonant, we change the **-y** to **-ier**

- *easy* → *easier*
- *busy* → *busier*

When an adjective with one syllable ends with a consonant after a vowel, we double the consonant. **E.g.:** *sad* → *sadder*

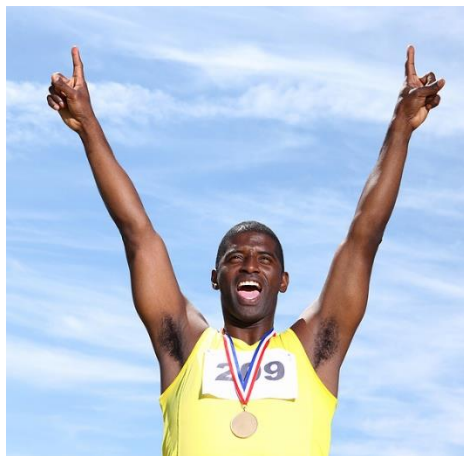
Review: Superlatives

Review the information below.

Superlatives are used to express how one thing or person is different from all the others of its kind.

e.g.: *I am the most decorated athlete in my sport of all time.*

- Adjectives with one syllable: add **-est**
- Adjectives with two or more syllables: add **most**
- Form negative superlatives with **least** + **adjective**.
- Add **the** before the superlative.



When an adjective ends in **-e**, we add **-st**

- *wide* → **widest**
- *late* → **latest**

When an adjective ends in **-y** after a consonant, we change the **-y** to **-iest**

- *easy* → **easiest**
- *busy* → **busiest**

When an adjective with one syllable ends with a consonant after a vowel, we double the consonant. **E.g:** *sad* → **saddest**



Complete the table

Complete the table below.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
1. tall	_____	the tallest
2. _____	more important	_____
3. heavy	_____	_____
4. big	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	the quickest
6. little	less	_____
7. much/many	more	_____
8. bad	_____	_____

Categorise the modifiers

1. **Read** the information in the big blue box.
2. **Categorise** the modifiers. Are they used to talk about **big** or **small** differences?

Modifiers are words or phrases that are used to **intensify** the difference between two things. They appear **before** the comparative adjective.

The stadium in London is bigger than the stadium in Liverpool.

*The stadium in London is **much** bigger than the stadium in Liverpool.*

little

much

a lot

a bit

slightly

far

Big differences:

Small differences:



Choose the correct modifier

1. **Read** the sentences.
2. **Choose** the correct modifier.

- 1 He ran (**a bit / a lot**) faster than the other runners. He completed the race 30 seconds before anyone else!
- 2 It was very close, but she managed to win the gold medal. She jumped (**slightly / much**) higher than her opponent.
- 3 The baseball team ended their season (**far/ slightly**) better than expected. Not only did they make it to the playoffs, they won the World Series!
- 4 The tennis match was (**a lot / slightly**) longer than usual. Both players were completely exhausted by the end of the match.
- 5 The competition was (**slightly/ much**) delayed due to bad weather. Luckily, the storm passed by quickly.

More on comparisons

1. **Read** the example sentences.
2. **Review** the information in the blue box.

Rugby is **as dangerous as** American Football.
Football (in Europe) is **the same as** soccer (in the U.S.).
Your tennis racket is **similar to** mine.

- To say that two things are the same, or nearly the same, use:
 - *the same as*
 - *as + adjective + as...*
 - *similar to*

More on comparisons, continued

1. **Read** the example sentences.
2. **Review** the information in the blue box.

The scoring system for tennis is **different from** table tennis.
Baseball is **not as fast-paced as** basketball.

- To talk about the differences between two things use:
 - *different from*
 - *not as + adjective + as*





Compare using *(not) as + adjective + as*

Create sentences using *(not) as + adjective + as*.

1 football / golf / (not) as +adjective + as



Golf is not as entertaining to watch as football.

2 tennis / rugby / (not) as +adjective + as



3 swimming / track and field / (not) as +adjective + as



4 cricket / rugby / (not) as +adjective + as



5 baseball / American football / (not) as +adjective + as



6 Come up with your own example!



Class game

1. **Choose** one of the sports.
2. **Compare** it to the other sports.
3. Can your classmates **guess** the sport?

This sport is **not as popular** in the US **as** in Europe.
This sport has **more** people on a team **than** basketball.

Is your sport soccer?



football



badminton



baseball



volleyball



cricket



basketball



table tennis



skiing



tennis



rock climbing



End of the lesson

Idiom

to step up your game

Meaning: to start performing better

Example: He needs to step up his game if he wants to win the tournament.



Additional practice



Complete the sentences

1. **Read** these sentences.
2. **Take 1-2 minutes** to **complete** them with your own answer.
3. **Share** your answers with the rest of the class.

1 I think **(name of sport)** is _____ interesting to watch than **(name of sport)**.

2 In my opinion, **(name of athlete)** is/was _____ famous athlete in the world.

3 I know _____ about sports than my friends.

4 If I had to guess, I would say **(name of athlete)** has won _____ gold medals at the Olympics.

5 Come up with a question to ask your classmates. Use comparatives or superlatives.

more
less
the most
the least



Correct the mistakes

Correct the errors with **comparatives** and **superlatives** in these sentences.

1 I think that Lionel Messi is the better footballer in the world.



I think that Lionel Messi is the best footballer in the world.

2 American football is most dangerous than baseball.



3 Ice hockey is not as popular than cricket in the UK.



4 A rugby ball is similar as an American football.



5 A 100-metre race is shortest as a 400-metre race.



6 The match was far the best as I expected.





Comparatives

For each pair, make a **comparative** sentence to say how popular the sports are in your country.

Rugby is almost as popular as...

Tennis is far more popular than...

1



3



4



2



5





Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What sport do you think requires the most skill? Why?



Who do you think is the most recognisable athlete in the world?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

**Handball or tennis -
what is more popular
in your country?**



**In your opinion, what is
the most dangerous
sport to play?**



Answer key

P.4: 1.) d 2.) a 3.) c 4.) b

P.9:

1. tall, taller, the tallest
2. important, more important, the most important
3. heavy, heavier, the heaviest
4. big, bigger, the biggest
5. quick, quicker, the quickest
6. little, less, the least
7. much/many, more, the most
8. bad, worse, the worst

P.10: *Big differences* – much, a lot, far; *Small differences* – little, a bit, slightly

P. 11: 1.) a bit 2.) slightly 3.) far 4.) a lot 5.) slightly

P. 19: 1.) more/less, 2.) the most/the least, 3.) more/less, 4.) the most/the least

P. 20: 2.) American football is more dangerous than baseball. 3.) Ice hockey is not as popular as cricket in the UK. 4.) A rugby ball is similar to an American football. 5.) A 100-metre race is shorter than a 400-metre race. 6.) The match was far better than I expected.



Summary

Using **comparatives**:

- Comparatives are used to express how **two things** or people are different.
- Adjectives with one syllable: add **-er**
- Adjectives with two or more syllables: add **more**
- Form negative comparatives with **less + adjective + than**

Using **superlatives**:

- Superlatives are used to express how one thing or person is **different from** all the others of its kind.
- Adjectives with one syllable: add **-est**
- Adjectives with two or more syllables: add **most**

Using **modifiers**

- Modifiers are words or phrases that are used to **intensify** the **difference** between two things. They appear before the comparative adjective.
- **Big differences**: much, a lot, far
- **Small differences**: little, slightly, a bit

Using comparatives II:

- To say that two things are **the same** or **nearly the same**, use: the same as, as + adjective + as..., similar to
- To talk about the **differences** between two things use: different from, not as + adjective + as



Vocabulary

of all time

of their time

far

slightly

the same as

similar to

different from

as + adjective + as



Notes

