

**%Lingoda** 

**GRAMMAR** 

# Advanced uses of adjectives

**LEVEL** 

Upper-Intermediate (B2)

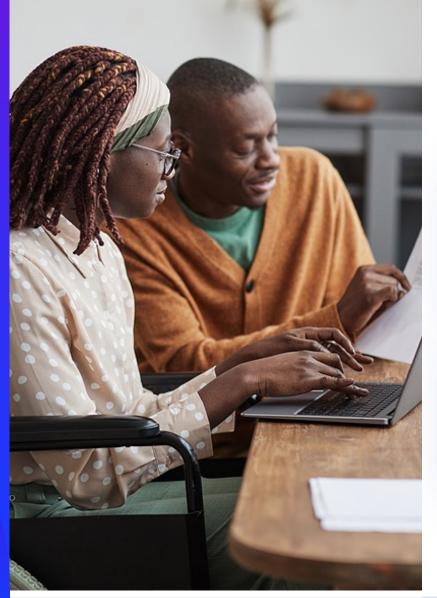
NUMBER

EN\_B2\_3022G

**LANGUAGE** 

English





#### **Learning outcomes**

 I can modify comparatives and superlatives.

 I can use adjectives to intensify nouns.





#### Warm-up

**Write one comparative** and **one superlative** sentence about yourself into the chat. **Ask your classmates** a follow-up question to find out more about what they've written.



My most valuable possession is...

My last job was **less rewarding** than my current one, because...

- interesting
- rewarding
- scary
- spacious

- noisy
- comfortable
- valuable
- wealthy





#### Modifying comparatives: a big difference

We use **comparative adjectives** when we compare one thing to another.

If we want to show that there is a **big difference** between two things, we can use **intensifiers** such as **a lot**, **much** and **far**.

a lot	much	far	
Food is a lot more expensive in Switzerland than in Poland.	The Himalayas are much higher than the Alps.	This restaurant is far better than the other one.	
There are a lot more people in China than in Croatia.	It is much more comfortable to take the train over long distances than the bus.	New York is far bigger than Sofia.	





#### Modifying comparatives: a small difference

To show that there is only a **small difference** between two things, we can use **mitigators** such as **slightly**, **a little** and **a bit**.

Note the use of *only*, which further emphasises the degree of difference.

slightly	a little	a bit	
Her hair is slightly longer than mine.	You are only a little younger than me.	The matinee is a bit cheaper than the evening show.	
That car is only slightly more expensive than this one.	This winter has been a little warmer than last year.	This sofa is a bit more expensive, but a lot more comfortable.	





#### **Modifying superlatives**

**Read** the example sentences and **complete** the blue box.

Yorkshire is by far the most beautiful county in England.

That was the best option by far.

She's easily the most talented actor in the industry today.

- We can use by far and easily in order to intensify a superlative.
- Note that by far can go after the verb or at the end of the sentence.





#### True or false?

**Correct** the false statements using an appropriate modifier from the previous slides.

		true	false
1	New Zealand is slightly bigger than Australia.		
2	Andorra is far smaller than Montenegro.		
3	Malta is a much bigger island than Great Britain.		
4	The English language is a bit more useful than Thai when travelling in Europe.		
5	English is far easier to learn than any other language.		





#### Match the sentences parts

**Match** the sentence parts. **Decide** whether these statements are **facts** or **opinions**.

1	Russia is by far	a	faster to fly transatlantic than to go by ship.
2	British-made chocolate is much	b	the biggest country in the world, at over 17 million km <sup>2</sup> .
3	It is a lot	С	harder to learn a language if you don't live in the country where it is spoken.
4	lt's a bit…	d	the best family car on the market now, in terms of value for money.
5	This is easily	е	tastier than American.



#### **Rewrite your sentences**

**Rewrite** your sentences from the warm-up activity, using an appropriate modifier.



My mother's wedding ring is **by far the most valuable** possession I own.

My last job was **a lot less rewarding** than my current one, because I didn't have direct contact with our customers.

a lot

slightly

much

a bit

far

by far

a little

easily



# 9.

#### **Journeys**

# It is much more comfortable to take the train over long distances than the bus.

Do you agree?

What's the longest journey you have taken **by land**?

What mode of transport did you use?







#### **Discuss**



**Answer** the questions below. Use the modifier *by far* or *easily* in at least one of your sentences.

What's the best way to get around your city?

What's one of the easiest meals to cook when you're busy?

What's one of the most difficult instruments to master?

When is the most pleasant time to visit your country?



Option: complete this activity **in breakout rooms.** 





#### Using adjectives as intensifiers

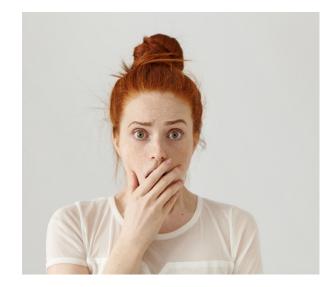
**Read** the example sentences and explanation below.

Losing three major clients in a year was a real blow for the company.

There was total silence after she dropped the antique vase.

It was an absolute nightmare of a trip!

- The following adjectives are often used to **intensify nouns**:
- real, absolute, complete, total, utter
- Note that certain adjective-noun combinations are most often used to describe a **negative** situation.







The project was a complete and utter failure from start to finish.

As in the examples on the previous slide, this phrase is often used to express extreme dismay, shock or disappointment.





#### **Complete the sentences**

1	It is difficult to find a real, one that will stand by you when times are tough.
2	He's a complete when it comes to saving money. He can't manage his personal finances at all.
3	They're an absolute to deal with. I was trying to get through to customer support for over an hour!
4	Well, that meeting was a complete of time.
5	We sat in total for most of the dinner. It was so awkward. We have practically nothing in common.
6	I thought the last part of the film was absolute It just didn't make any sense!
7	I got such a fright. The room was in total and I didn't realise there was somebody there!
8	His appointment to the board was a real

silence waste friend nightmare darkness nonsense surprise idiot





#### Talk about a time when...

**Build adjective-noun combinations** using the cards below. **Pick a classmate.** They have to describe a situation using one of your chosen combinations.

total	silence	utter	chaos	waste
failure	surprise	friend	complete	absolute
real	idiot	nonsense	nightmare	blow



## 9.

#### Let's reflect

 Can you modify comparatives and superlatives?

Can you use adjectives to intensify nouns?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.



#### **End of the lesson**

Idiom

#### (It's) head and shoulders above

**Meaning:** use this to describe something which is far better than something else

**Example:** She's head and shoulders above the other candidates.







# **Additional practice**



#### **Vocabulary review**



**Ask a classmate** a question using vocabulary from the lesson.



a lot a little

much by far

far rather

slightly absolute





#### **Complete the sentences**



**Complete** the sentences so that they are true for you.

1	I'm slightly better	>	than my husband at remembering names!
2	I have a far greater fear of	>	
3	I'm a lot better at English than	>	
4	The weather right now is much more	>	
5	My job is a little less	>	
6	I'm slightly more confident about	>	





#### **Compare two countries**



**Compare** two countries using modifying adverbs. **Use the information** below as a guide.





Area (km2)

**Population** 

**Cities** 

Weather

**Attractions** 



## 9.

#### **Answer key**

**P.7:** 1. F a lot smaller, 2. T, 3. F a lot smaller, 4. F a lot more, 5. T, 6. Whatever your student says!

**P.8:** 1. b 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. d

**P.14:** 1. friend 2. idiot 3. nightmare 4. waste 5. silence 6. nonsense 7. darkness 8. surprise



## 9.

#### **Summary**

#### **Modifying comparatives - a big difference:**

- We use comparative adjectives when we compare one thing to another.
- If we want to show that there is a big difference between two things, we can use intensifiers such as a lot, much and far.
- Food in Switzerland is far more expensive than food in Poland.

#### Modifying comparatives - a small difference:

- To show that there is only a **small difference** between two things, we can use **mitigators** such as **slightly**, **a little** and **a bit**.
- Note the use of **only**, which further emphasises the degree of difference.
- You're **only a little** younger than me.

#### **Modifying superlatives:**

- We can use *by far* and *easily* in order to **intensify a superlative**.
- Note that **by far** can go after the verb or at the end of the sentence.
- That was the best option **by far**.
  She's **easily** the most talented actor in the industry today.

#### Adjectives as intensifiers:

- The following adjectives are often used to **intensify nouns**: **real**, **absolute**, **complete**, **total**, **utter**
- Certain adjective-noun combinations are most often used to describe a **negative** situation.
- There was **total** silence after she dropped the antique vase.
- It was an absolute nightmare of a trip!





#### **Vocabulary**

rewarding

industry

transatlantic

blow

complete and utter





#### **Notes**

