

Session 2

Let's find out more about Broadcasting House and focus on the language used to describe the changes that have taken place there (comparative adjectives) and also some of the features that make the building unique (superlative adjectives)

Activity 1

Newest, largest and bigger

Comparatives and superlatives explained



New Broadcasting House was a very large project for the BBC. In fact, it was **the largest project** in the history of the BBC. Look again at some of these facts from Session 1 and look carefully at the words in **bold**:

*New Broadcasting House provides a **better** working environment for BBC staff.*

*This is now the BBC's **largest** creative hub in the UK.*

*The redevelopment of Broadcasting House involved the BBC's **biggest** relocation of staff in its 90 year history.*

*New Broadcasting House is a 12-storey extension that's connected to the original **smaller** home of the BBC.*

*There are many TV and radio studios using some of the **latest** technology.*

*It's **busier** than ever but there are plenty of places to meet and talk to colleagues.*

These are all examples of **comparative** and **superlative adjectives**.

Comparative adjectives tell us how something is different (*the original **smaller** home of the BBC*) or how something has changed (*It's **busier** than ever*).

Look at these other examples. How do we form comparative adjectives?:

The BBC News Service is now **faster than** ever.

This redevelopment took place to meet **higher** demand for BBC services.

New Broadcasting House is **bigger than** the previous building.

Due to 24-hour programming and online services, the BBC is much **busier than** it was 20 years ago.

In most cases, we add -er to the adjective to form a comparative (large - larger, fast - faster).

If the adjective finishes with a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern (like 'big'), the final consonant is doubled when -er is added (big - bigger, fat - fatter).

If the adjective ends with a consonant + y, we change the y to an i (busy - busier, funny - funnier).

We use 'than' to make a direct comparison with something else (I am taller than my brother.)

Superlative adjectives highlight something that is bigger, better or more than everything else (*the **largest** live newsroom in Europe, the **latest** technology*).

Look at these examples. How do we form superlative adjectives?

The BBC news team is one of **the fastest** in the world.

New Broadcasting House was **the biggest** building project in BBC history.

The Learning English staff are **the busiest** and **happiest** at the BBC!

In these examples, we add –est after the adjective. We also use ‘the’ before the adjective (fast - the fastest, large - the largest).

If the adjective finishes with a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern (like ‘big’), the final consonant is doubled (big - the biggest, fat - the fattest).

If the adjective ends with a consonant + y, we change the y to an i (busy - the busiest, funny - the funniest).

One more thing – there are always irregular forms in English! This is true for comparative and superlative adjectives as well. Here are some of the common irregular forms:

adjective	comparative	superlative
good	better (than)	(the) best
well	better (than)	(the) best
bad	worse (than)	(the) worst
ill	worse (than)	(the) worst
far	further (than)	(the) furthest

Please check out our [grammar reference](#) for more explanations and examples.

Before we look at different adjectives, let’s check what you have learned so far with a quick comparatives and superlatives quiz. Look at the sentences and put the adjectives into the correct comparative or superlative form. Remember to check your spelling carefully!

Next

Of course, English is never that easy! There are irregular forms but there are also longer adjectives too. The next activity will look at when we use the words **more** and **most**.

