

Session Grammar

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).

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*).

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).

Note - 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