

Comparatives

We use comparatives to compare two things or two people.

Subject 1 + verb to be + verb (+) -er + than + Subject 2

Example:

Van Gogh is a **better** artist than Da Vinci

Da Vinci is **older** than Van Gogh

Superlatives

Superlatives are used, however, to show the difference between more than two things or more than two people.

Subject + verb to be + verb (+) -est

Example:

Van Gogh is the **best** artist of the world

Da Vinci is the **oldest** famous artist

To form comparatives and superlatives you need to know the number of the syllables in the adjective:

1. One syllable adjective ending in a silent 'e'

Comparative — add 'r' — nicer

Superlative — add 'st' — nicest

2. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant

Comparative — the consonant is doubled and 'er' is added — bigger

Superlative — the consonant is doubled and 'est' is added — biggest

3. One syllable adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel (or long vowels)

Comparative — 'er' is added — higher, cheaper, softer.

Superlative — 'est' is added — highest, cheapest, softest.

4. A two syllable adjective ending in 'y'

Comparative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added — happier

Superlative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'est' is added — happiest

5. Two syllable or more adjectives without 'y' at the end — exciting

Comparative — more + the adjective + than — more exciting than

Superlative — more + the adjective + than — the most exciting