**Forming Comparative and Superlative Adjectives**

**One-syllable adjectives.**

Form the comparative and superlative forms of a one-syllable adjective by adding –er for the comparative form and –est for the superlative.

| **One-Syllable Adjective** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| tall | Taller | tallest |
| old | Older | oldest |
| long | Longer | longest |

* Mary is **taller** *than* Max.
* Mary is **the tallest** *of* all the students.
* Max is **older** *than* John.
* *Of* the three students, Max is **the oldest**.
* My hair is **longer** *than* your hair.
* Max's story is **the longest** *story I've ever heard*.

If the one-syllable adjective ends with an e, just add –r for the comparative form and –st for the superlative form.

| **One-Syllable Adjective with Final -e** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| large | Larger | largest |
| wise | Wiser | wisest |

* Mary's car is **larger** *than* Max's car.
* Mary's house is **the tallest** *of* all the houses on the block.
* Max is **wiser** *than* his brother.
* Max is **the wisest** *person I know*.

If the one-syllable adjective ends with a single consonant with a vowel before it, double the consonant and add –er for the comparative form; and double the consonant and add –est for the superlative form.

| **One-Syllable Adjective Ending with a Single Consonant with a Single Vowel before It** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| big | Bigger | biggest |
| thin | Thinner | thinnest |
| fat | Fatter | fattest |

* My dog is **bigger** *than* your dog.
* My dog is **the biggest** *of* all the dogs in the neighborhood.
* Max is **thinner** *than* John.
* *Of* all the students in the class, Max is **the thinnest**.
* My mother is **fatter** *than* your mother.
* Mary is **the fattest** *person I've ever seen*.

**Two-syllable adjectives.**

With most two-syllable adjectives, you form the comparative with more and the superlative with most.

| **Two-Syllable Adjective** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| peaceful | more peaceful | most peaceful |
| pleasant | more pleasant | most pleasant |
| careful | more careful | most careful |
| thoughtful | more thoughtful | most thoughtful |

* This morning is **more peaceful** *than* yesterday morning.
* Max's house in the mountains is **the most peaceful** *in* the world.
* Max is **more careful** *than* Mike.
* *Of* all the taxi drivers, Jack is **the most careful**.
* Jill is **more thoughtful** *than* your sister.
* Mary is **the most thoughtful** *person I've ever met*.

If the two-syllable adjectives ends with –y, change the *y* to *i*and add –er for the comparative form. For the superlative form change the *y* to *i and* add –est.

| **Two-Syllable Adjective Ending with -y** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| happy | Happier | happiest |
| angry | Angrier | angriest |
| busy | Busier | busiest |

* John is **happier** today *than* he was yesterday.
* John is **the happiest** boy *in* the world.
* Max is **angrier** *than* Mary.
* *Of* all of John's victims, Max is **the angriest**.
* Mary is **busier** *than* Max.
* Mary is **the busiest** *person I've ever met*.

Two-syllable adjectives ending in –er, -le, or –ow take –er and –est to form the comparative and superlative forms.

| **Two-Syllable Adjective Ending with -er, -le, or -ow** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| narrow | Narrower | narrowest |
| gentle | Gentler | gentlest |

* The roads in this town are **narrower** *than* the roads in the city.
* This road is the**narrowest** *of* all the roads in California.
* Big dogs are **gentler** *than* small dogs.
* *Of* all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are **the gentlest**.

**Adjectives with three or more syllables.**

For adjectives with three syllables or more, you form the comparative with more and the superlative with most.

| **Adjective with Three or More Syllables** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| generous | more generous | most generous |
| important | more important | most important |
| intelligent | more intelligent | most intelligent |

* John is **more generous** *than* Jack.
* John is **the most generous** *of* all the people I know.
* Health is **more important** *than* money.
* *Of* all the people I know, Max is **the most important**.
* Women are **more intelligent** *than* men.
* Mary is **the most intelligent** *person I've ever met*.

**Exceptions.**

Irregular adjectives.

| **Irregular Adjective** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| good | Better | best |
| bad | Worse | worst |
| far | Farther | farthest |
| little | Less | least |
| many | More | most |

* Italian food is **better** *than* American food.
* My dog is **the best** dog *in* the world.
* My mother's cooking is **worse** *than* your mother's cooking.
* *Of* all the students in the class, Max is **the worst**.

Two-syllable adjectives that follow two rules. These adjectives can be used with -er and -est and with more and most.

| **Two-Syllable Adjective** | **Comparative Form** | **Superlative Form** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| clever | Cleverer | cleverest |
| clever | more clever | most clever |
| gentle | Gentler | gentlest |
| gentle | more gentle | most gentle |
| friendly | Friendlier | Friendliest |
| friendly | more friendly | most friendly |
| quiet | Quieter | quietest |
| quiet | more quiet | most quiet |
| simple | Simpler | simplest |
| simple | more simple | most simple |

* Big dogs are **gentler** *than* small dogs.
* *Of* all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are **the gentlest**.