

ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS

PART 2: COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

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COMPARATIVES

- Comparatives are used to compare two things, places, or people.
- We usually add «-er» to short adjectives and adverbs (1 syllable) to make comparative. (e.g. faster, smaller, weaker, etc.)
- We usually use «**more + adj./adv**» for long adjectives and adverbs (2 or more syllable). (e.g. more comfortable, more thoughtful, more careful, etc.)

What should we get for her birthday?

- ✓ We can buy this dress for her. It is **cheaper**.
- ✓ We cannot buy that mobile phone because it is **more expensive**.

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COMPARATIVES

- We use «**than**» if both of the objects and things compared are given in the sentence.
- «**Than**» is not always necessary.
 - ✓ I find maths problems **harder than** science questions.
 - ✓ People living in the city center are usually **richer than** people living in the suburbs.
 - ✓ The hurricane hit the countryside **more severely than** the city center. (comparative with adverb)
 - ✓ Swimming in shallow water is usually **safer** for children. («than» is not used)
 - ✓ Cars running on diesel usually have a **louder** engine. («than» is not used)
 - ✓ I feel **more energetic** when I am outdoors. («than» is not used)

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COMPARATIVES

- *Two-syllable adjectives ending in «-y»* are made comparative by adding «-er».
- lucky --- luckier early --- earlier
 easy --- easier pretty --- prettier
 wealthy --- wealthier
 - ✓ I wake up **earlier** this year than I did last year.
 - ✓ This orange bag is **prettier** than the yellow one.

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COMPARATIVES

- Most adverbs end in «-ly», and therefore they are mostly two or more syllables.
 - For this reason, most adverbs are used as: «*more + adverb*».
- ✓ more easily
 - ✓ more steadily
 - ✓ more strictly
 - ✓ more politely
 - ✓ more seriously, etc.

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COMPARATIVES

- Some adjectives can be used *both with «-er» and «more»* without a change in meaning.
- ✓ clever --- cleverer / more clever ✓
 - ✓ narrow --- narrower / more narrow ✓
 - ✓ quiet --- quieter / more quiet ✓
 - ✓ shallow --- shallower / more shallow ✓
 - ✓ simple --- simpler / more simple ✓
 - ✓ friendly --- friendlier / more friendly ✓
 - ✓ lovely --- lovelier / more lovely ✓
 - ✓ lively --- livelier / more lively ✓
 - ✓ lonely --- lonelier / more lonely ✓

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IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES

- Some comparative structures are irregular:
 - ✓ good / well ---- better I know him **better than** anyone else.
 - ✓ bad / badly ---- worse I feel **worse** today **than** I did yesterday.
 - ✓ far ---- farther / further Your house is **farther** to the city center **than** I thought.
- Please Note! «**further + noun**» means «*more*» and is usually used *with abstract nouns*.
 - ✓ I need **further explanation**. (= more explanation)
 - ✓ We will have **further news** about his condition soon. (= more news)

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DEGREES IN COMPARATIVES

- It is possible to make comparatives *stronger* or *weaker* by adding the adverbs below to the comparative:
 - ❖ *much / a lot / far* + comparative (makes meaning stronger)
 - ❖ *a bit / a little / slightly* + comparative (makes meaning weaker)

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DEGREES IN COMPARATIVES

- Examples:

- ✓ The River Nile is **a lot longer** than most other rivers in the world.
 - ✓ The weather is **much more pleasant** today.
 - ✓ 3D movies feel **far more real** than regular movies.
-
- ✓ Can you please speak **a bit louder** – I cannot hear you.
 - ✓ We need to go **a little faster** if we want to catch the movie.
 - ✓ The coach felt **slightly more optimistic** about the second half of the game.

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DEGREES IN COMPARATIVES

- «*Not any + comparative*» and «*no + comparative*» mean that *there is no difference* between two things or people.
 - ✓ Their new house is **not any bigger** than ours.
 - ✓ Their house is **no bigger** than ours.
 - ✓ This new couch is **no more comfortable** than our old one.
 - ✓ I do **not** want to wait for his speech **any longer**.

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DEGREES IN COMPARATIVES

- We *repeat comparatives* (e.g. more and more expensive) and *use the verbs «get» and «become»* to say that something changes continuously and gradually:
 - ✓ Your swimming is *getting better and better* everyday.
 - ✓ Our capital city is *getting bigger and bigger* each year.
 - ✓ Sean is *becoming more and more stubborn* each day.
 - ✓ Ted *got more and more tired* of his friend's comments.

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THE MORE, THE MORE

- «The more, the more ...» means that one thing depends on the other, and one thing increases or decreases when the other thing increases or decreases.
 - ✓ The **faster** you go, the **quicker** you will get there.
 - ✓ The **older** you are, the **harder** it becomes to learn a skill.
 - ✓ The **cheaper** the hotel (is), the **worse** the service (is).
 - ✓ The **more water** you use, the **healthier** your plants will be.
 - ✓ The **closer** we got to our destination, the **more excited** the kids got.



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OLDER VS ELDER

- Comparative form of «old» is «**older**».
 ✓ Ross is a little **older than** he looks.
 ✓ My house is **older than** all the other houses in the neighborhood.
- When we are talking about our relatives, we use «**elder**», and «**elder**» is an adjective, not a comparative.
 ✓ Oswald's **elder brother** is an engineer at an international firm.
 ✓ My **elder daughter** moved to another city last month.

BUT! My **elder sister** is... ✓✓✓

My sister is **older than** me... ✓✓✓

My sister is **elder than** me... XXX

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AS ... (ADJ/ADV)... AS

- « **as ... as** » is also used to compare two things or people. It implies *equality* or *sameness*.
 ✓ Pam is **as easygoing as** her elder brother.
 = Pam and her elder brother are equally easygoing.
- ✓ Your office is **as spacious as** my office.
 = Our offices are equally spacious.
- ✓ The city center was **not as expensive as** I expected.
 = The city center was cheaper than I expected.
- ✓ The teacher explained the topic **as clearly as** possible. (used with adverb)
- ✓ The plan did not go **as smoothly as** I wanted. (used with adverb)

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AS ... (ADJ/ADV)... AS

...
I think that I will never see
A poem *as lovely as* a tree.
By Joyce Kilmer (from Trees)

- In negative sentences, «**not so ... as**» is also commonly used.
 - ✓ Unfortunately, my salary is **not so high as** Terry's.
 - ✓ The city center was **not so expensive as** I expected.

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AS ... (ADJ/ADV)... AS

- «**As ... as**» can be used together with «**twice / three / four times**».
- ✓ This year, holiday packages are **twice as expensive as** they were last year.
- ✓ The Amazon River is at least **three times as long as** Tigris River.
- ✓ The final exam was **ten times as difficult as** the midterms.

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LESS ... THAN

- It is common to use «**less ... than**» with longer adjectives.
- It has the same meaning with «**not as ... as**».
- ✓ Pam is **less easygoing than** her elder brother.
= Pam is **not as easygoing as** her elder brother.
- ✓ The city center was **less expensive than** I expected.
= The city center was **not as expensive as** I expected.
- ✓ The plan went **less smoothly than** I wanted. (used with adverb)
= The plan did not go **as smoothly as** I wanted.

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THE SAME AS

- «**the same as**» also implies *sameness* and it can be used as «**the same + noun + as**».
- ✓ Collin's salary is **the same as** mine.
= Collin gets **the same salary as** mine.
- ✓ Laura's daughter is **the same age as** mine.
- ✓ We usually want a relationship to stay **the same as** the day when we first meet.

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...THAN SMO / ...THAN SMO IS

- We usually end comparative structures with: «... *than smo*» or «*as ... as smo*».
- It is also common to end comparative structures *by using auxiliaries* as in: «... *than smo is/does*» or «*as ... as smo is/does*».
 - ✓ Oliver is shorter **than me**. = Oliver is shorter **than I am**.
 - ✓ Sophia is less boring **than Tim**. = Sophia is less boring **than Tim is**.
 - ✓ Emma runs **as fast as him**. = Emma runs **as fast as he does**.
 - ✓ Samuel can sing more beautifully **than her**. = Samuel can sing more beautifully **than she can**.

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SUPERLATIVES

- We use superlatives to compare three or more things.
- We use « *adj + -est* » for short adjectives (1-syllable) and « *the most + adj. / adv.* » for long adjectives and adverbs (2 or more syllables).
- Superlative structures usually receive «*the*» before them.
 - ✓ The Arabian Peninsula is **the hottest and driest region** in the world.
 - ✓ Hawai'i is probably **the most popular surfing location** among surfers.

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SUPERLATIVES

- Some examples:

short --- the shortest

hot --- the hottest

difficult --- the most difficult

curious --- the most curious

easy --- the easiest

high --- the highest

pleasant --- the most pleasant

urgent --- the most urgent

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IRREGULAR SUPERLATIVES

- Some superlatives are irregular:

✓ good --- the best

✓ bad --- the worst

✓ far --- the farthest / the furthest

It was **the best holiday** I have had in my life!

This is probably **the worst movie** ever.

What is **the farthest destination** you have travelled?

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SUPERLATIVES VS COMPARATIVES

- Superlatives and comparatives might sometimes mean the same, depending on how we form the sentence:

✓ Benjamin is **the most stubborn** person I've ever known.

VERSUS

Benjamin is **more stubborn than** all my other friends.

✓ This hotel is **the most expensive** one in the area.

VERSUS

This hotel is **more expensive than** all the others in the area.

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OLDEST VS ELDEST

- The superlative form of «old» is «**the oldest**»
- We use «**the eldest**» to talk about our relatives.
 - ✓ Sultan Ahmed Mosque, also known as the Blue Mosque, is **the oldest** imperial mosque in Istanbul.
 - ✓ My **eldest son** studies chemistry at college.
 - ✓ Who is **the eldest / the oldest** in your family? ✓

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SUPERLATIVES + IN / OF

- We use the preposition «**in**» to form superlatives with place names.
 - ✓ What is **the deepest** lake *in the world*?
 - ✓ We had **the best** room *in the hotel*.
- We use the preposition «**of**» to form superlatives with times.
 - ✓ What is **the longest** day *of the year*?
 - ✓ I remember **the happiest** day *of my life*.

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SUPERLATIVES & PRESENT PERFECT

- It is common to use Present Perfect Tense with Superlative form:
 - ✓ The Shawshank Redemption is **the best** movie (that) *I've ever seen*.
 - ✓ What is **the coldest** place (that) *you have visited* in your life?
 - ✓ Nick is **the strangest** person (that) *I have met* here so far.

Please Note: This was covered in detail in Present Perfect Tense part.

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THANK YOU...

& EXERCISE TIME!!!

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