

# Comparatives and Superlatives

Grammar Grammar Grammar



## COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

We use **comparative adjectives** to show change or make comparisons:

*This car is certainly **better**, but it's much **more expensive**.*

*I'm feeling **happier** now.*

*We need a **bigger** garden.*

We use **than** when we want to **compare one thing with another**:

*She is two years older **than** me.*

*New York is much bigger **than** Boston.*

*He is a better player **than** Ronaldo.*

*France is a bigger country **than** Britain.*



When we want to **describe how something or someone changes** we can use two comparatives with *and*:

*The balloon got **bigger and bigger**.*

*Everything is getting **more and more expensive**.*

*Grandfather is looking **older and older**.*

We often use the with comparative adjectives to **show that one thing depends on another**:

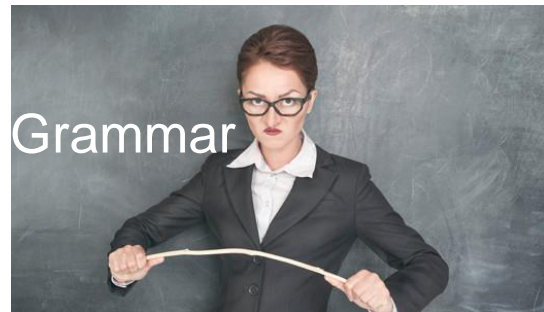
***The faster** you drive, **the more dangerous** it is.*

(= When you drive faster, it is more dangerous.)

***The higher** they climbed, **the colder** it got.*

(= When they climbed higher, it got colder.)

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## SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

We use *the* with **superlative adjectives**:

*It was **the happiest day** of my life.*

*Everest is **the highest mountain** in the world.*

*That's **the best film** I have seen this year.*

*I have three sisters: Jan is **the oldest** and Angela is **the youngest**.*



## How to form **comparative and superlative** adjectives

- We usually add *-er* and *-est* to **one-syllable words**

to make comparatives and superlatives:

|             |               |                |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>old</i>  | <i>older</i>  | <i>oldest</i>  |
| <i>long</i> | <i>longer</i> | <i>longest</i> |

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- If an adjective **ends in -e**, we add **-r** or **-st**.

|              |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| <i>nice</i>  | <i>nicer</i>  | <i>nicest</i>  |
| <i>large</i> | <i>larger</i> | <i>largest</i> |

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- If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

|            |                      |                       |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>big</i> | <i><b>big</b>ger</i> | <i><b>bigg</b>est</i> |
| <i>fat</i> | <i><b>fat</b>ter</i> | <i><b>fatt</b>est</i> |

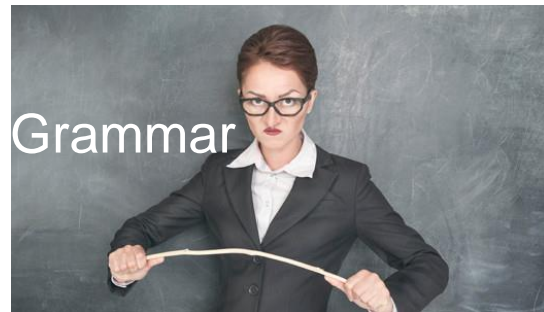
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- If an adjective **ends in a consonant and –y**, we change –y to –i and add –er or –est:

|              |                |                 |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>happy</i> | <i>happier</i> | <i>happiest</i> |
| <i>silly</i> | <i>sillier</i> | <i>silliest</i> |

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- We use **more** and **most** to make comparatives and superlatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

|                    |                                |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>careful</i>     | <b>more</b> <i>careful</i>     | <b>most</b> <i>careful</i>     |
| <i>interesting</i> | <b>more</b> <i>interesting</i> | <b>most</b> <i>interesting</i> |



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- However, with **these common two-syllable adjectives**, you can **either** add *-er/-r* and *-est/-st* or use *more* and *most*.

*common*

*cruel*

*gentle*

*handsome*

*likely*

*narrow*

*pleasant*

*polite*

*simple*

*stupid*

*He is certainly **handsomer** than his brother.*

*His brother is handsome, but he is **more handsome**.*

*She is one of **the politest** people I have ever met.*

*She is **the most polite** person I have ever met.*

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- The adjectives ***good***, ***bad*** and ***far***

have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

|             |                        |                          |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>good</i> | <i>better</i>          | <i>best</i>              |
| <i>bad</i>  | <i>worse</i>           | <i>worst</i>             |
| <i>far</i>  | <i>farther/further</i> | <i>farthest/furthest</i> |