

Comparative and superlative forms

Comparatives are **words (adjectives and adverbs)** that end in **-er** (bigger, richer, faster).

We use comparatives to **look for the difference(s) in meaning between two or more things, people, ideas, or animals**

Example:

His car is **bigger** than my car.

We **compare his car** with **my car**.

To 'compare':

Peter is better at mathematics than Malee.

We **compare** Peter's mathematics learning with Malee's mathematics learning.

Some more comparatives:

My **father** is **older** than my **mother**.

(we compare the **age**)

The **living room** is **cleaner** than the **basement**.

(we compare the **cleanness**)

The **Thai weather** is **hotter** than the **German weather**.

(we compare the **heat**)

My **aunt** is **younger** than my **uncle**.

(we compare the **age**)

Somboon's car is **newer** than **Nong's car**.

(we compare the **age**)

The **bathroom** is **smaller** than the **attic**.

(we compare the **size**)

The **food in the south** is **spicier** than **in the north**.

(we compare the **taste**)

2.

Comparatives and Superlative Adjectives



How do we make **comparatives** (bigger, richer, faster etc.)

1. Short adjectives:

We add **-er** to the end of **shorter adjectives and adverbs**, almost always if they have **only one syllable**. (Do they end in -e, then only add -r: late – later)

Syllable: any one of the parts into which a word is naturally divided when it is pronounced (won-der-ful).

Fast: he drove **fast~~er~~** this morning.

One syllable

cheap	cheaper	I always buy cheaper clothes than my brother.
rich	richer	My uncle is richer than my father-in-law.
old	older	Our dog Fikky is older than our parrot.
soft	softer	Shampoo is softer than soap.
slow	slower	A bicycle is slower than a car.

Exercise 1.

- rude: 1. John is _____ than his brother Paul.
loud: 2. His new sound boxes are _____ than mine.
sharp: 3. Peter's knife is _____ than my father's knife.
quick: 4. She works much _____ than her co-worker.
safe: 5. The road to Chiang Mai is _____ than the road to Mae Rim.
nice: 6. Ria is a much _____ woman than her sister Anna.
slow: 7. The turtle walks _____ than the dog.

2. Longer adjectives and adverbs:

A. We use '**more**' before adjectives when these words are long; almost always **when they have three or more syllables**:

So, we do not say: "His car is ~~beautifuler~~ than mine." We say: "His car is **more beautiful than** mine."

2.

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

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Often the comparative adjective is followed by 'than'.

Examples of 3 syllable adjectives or adverbs:

Won-der-ful	more wonderful	Roses are more wonderful than tulips.
Po-pu-lar	more popular	Typing is more popular than writing.
A-mu-sing	more amusing	Monkeys are more amusing than turtles.
Com-fort-able	more comfortable	John's chair is more comfortable than mine.
Ca-re-ful	more careful	Girls are often more careful than boys.
Beau-ti-ful	more beautiful	Our neighbors' house is more beautiful than ours.

B. Irregular:

Some words (adjectives and adverbs) are irregular:

Examples:

good	better	"He has a good car but Suat's car is better."
bad	worse	"Today, the weather is worse than yesterday."
well	better	"She feels better now than yesterday"
far	farther/further	"We have to walk farther than last time."

3. 2-syllable adjectives and adverbs:

With **many two-syllable words** (e.g. -able, clever, common, frosty, happy), we can **choose whether to use more or to add -er to make the comparative and superlative forms.**

quiet	quieter	more quiet
clever	cleverer	more clever
narrow	narrower	more narrow
simple	simpler	more simple

2-syllable adjectives ending in: -ing, -ed, -ful, and -less: use more and most:

tiring	more tiring
amusing	more amusing
disgusting	more disgusting
interesting	more interesting
disappointing	more disappointing

interested	more interested
surprised	more surprised
tired	more tired
depressed	more depressed
annoyed	more annoyed

painful	more painful
careful	more careful
helpful	more helpful
useful	more useful

harmless	more harmless
heartless	more heartless
shameless	more shameless

4. Adjectives ending in -y change y to -ier.

dry	drier (1 syllable) (dryer is allowed)
happy	happier (2 syllables)
easy	easier (2 syllables)
friendly	friendlier (2 syllables)

Superlatives are words (adverbs/adjectives) that end in **-est** (biggest, richest, fastest).

We use superlatives to find **one thing or person as being special** ('the best' or maybe 'the worst').

Examples: Our neighbors have **the largest** garden in our neighborhood.
My uncle is the **richest** man in our village.

Our family has **the largest** rice field in our village. (1 syllable)
She is the **happiest** girl in town. (2 syllables)

The superlative of the word 'expensive' (3 syllables)
It was **the most expensive** wine in the shop.

5. as + adjective/ adverb + as

Your house is **as large as** mine.
This snake is **as long as** that one.
He speaks English **as well as** his friend.

as + much + uncountable noun + as
She has **as much money as** her friend.

as + many + countable noun + as
I have **as many friends as** you.

6. Is/are the same + noun + as
They are **the same** height.
These shoes are **the same** size.

7. be + like
I am **like** my father.
Your voice is **like** John's.

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8. be + similar to

Your pen **is similar to** mine.

9. The same/similar/alike

Your pencil box **is similar to** mine.

Our shoes are **the same/similar/alike**.

Their plans are **similar** to ours.

Many Comparatives & Superlatives Exercises on pages below!

**Exercise the comparative forms.**

1. Germany is _____ (big) than Holland and Belgium together.
2. The motorcycle he bought is _____ (expensive) than my car.
3. Your coffee is _____ (cold) than mine.
4. I think Berlin is _____ (beautiful) than London.
5. Many foods are _____ (healthy) and _____ (good) than junk food.
6. The new motorcycle is much _____ (fast) than the old one.
7. Women seem to be _____ (thoughtful) than men.
8. A horse is _____ (short) than a giraffe.
9. The biggest snake discovered was _____ (long) than a bus.
10. Maria's elder sister is _____ (tall) than her.
11. Skiing is _____ (dangerous) than playing billiards.
12. This pig is much _____ (fat) than that one.
13. The green chair is _____ (small) than the white one.
14. Some people think that dogs are _____ (intelligent) than monkeys.
15. The bed in room 68 is _____ (comfortable) than the one in room 67.
16. My father is _____ (generous) than my uncle.



Exercise the superlative forms. Don't forget the determiner 'the'.



1. My father is _____ (tall) person in our family.
2. Russia is _____ (large) country in the world.
3. What is _____ (old) city in the world?
4. We bought _____ (delicious) cookies they had.
5. Which sports do you think are _____ (dangerous)?
6. He is _____ (lazy) person in our company.
7. I think the Ninth Symphony is _____ (beautiful) Beethoven wrote.
8. That bakery has _____ (good) croissants in our city.
9. I think science is _____ (difficult) subject.
10. How long is _____ (long) bridge in China?
11. I think he is _____ (funny) celebrity on TV.
12. Which place is _____ (cold) place on earth?
13. I think history is _____ (interesting) subject.
14. Last Christmas was _____ (bad) time of my life.
15. Snow White is _____ (popular) fairy tale.
16. The German language is _____ (easy) foreign language for Dutch people.
17. Those magazines are _____ (cheap) you can buy here.



Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
1. quiet	more quiet	most quiet
2. bad	worse	worst
3. far	farther	farthest
4. popular	more popular	most popular
5. happy	happier	happiest
6. tiring	more tiring	most tiring
7. large	larger	largest
8. narrow	narrower	narrowest
9. expensive	more expensive	most expensive
10. slow	slower	slowest
11. interesting	more interesting	most interesting
12. sharp	sharper	sharpest
13. easy	easier	easiest
14. harmless	more harmless	most harmless
15. rich	richer	richest
16. exciting	more exciting	most exciting
17. amusing	more amusing	most amusing
18. old	older	oldest
19. weak	weaker	weakest
20. heavy	heavier	heaviest
21. hot	hotter	hottest
22. windy	windier	windiest
23. good	better	best
24. strong	stronger	strongest
25. dry	drier	driest
26. beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful



27. simple	simpler	simplest
28. clever	cleverer	cleverest
29. long	longer	longest
30. famous	more famous	most famous
31. wonderful	more wonderful	most wonderful
32. friendly	friendlier	friendliest
33. interested	more interested	most interested
34. smart	smarter	smartest
35. tired	more tired	most tired
36. comfortable	more comfortable	most comfortable

Complete the sentences in the 2nd and 3rd column. Use the comparative form in the 2nd and the superlative in the 3rd.

Basic sentences	Comparative:	Superlative:
1. This teacher is angry.	That teacher is	Mr. Gerrard
2. This room is clean.	That room <i>is cleaner.</i>	Our bathroom <i>is the cleanest.</i>
3. The weather in Iran is hot.	The weather in Algeria <i>is hotter.</i>	The weather in Iraq is <i>the hottest.</i>
4. My mom is a good cook.	Her mom is a _____ cook.	Mariah's mom _____ cook.
5. My ponytail is long.	Her ponytail _____	Sacha's ponytail _____
6. Their solution is surprising.	Johnny's solution _____	My father's solution _____
7. I'm happy.	You _____	The twins _____
8. She is already famous.	He _____	They _____
9. This test is easy.	That test _____	The science test _____
10. That guy is bad.	These guys _____	Those prisoners _____
11. That shop is cheap.	This market _____	That vendor _____
12. Her handbag is heavy.	That suitcase _____	Their suitcases _____
13. This park is quiet.	That park _____	The City Park _____
14. The bus stop is far.	The barbershop _____	The pharmacy _____
15. My result is disappointing.	Their results _____	His results _____
16. I'm tired.	She _____	They _____
17. This wound is painful.	That wound _____	Their wounds _____
18. They are interested.	The student _____	The teachers _____
19. That decision is heartless.	Their decisions are _____	His decisions _____
20. This flower is beautiful.	Daffodils are _____	Roses _____

12.

Comparatives and Superlative Adjectives

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21. That girl is slow.	Her sister is	Their father
22. That knife is sharp.	That kitchen knife	That stiletto
23. This exercise was exciting.	Exercise 2 was	The last exercise

12.

Comparatives and Superlative Adverbs

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Here we add one worksheet with comparative and superlative adverbs.

<u>Adverb</u>	Comparative	Superlative
1. fast		
2. carefully		
3. early		
4. politely		
5. quickly		
6. well		
7. angrily		
8. quietly		
9. generously		
10. slowly		
11. badly		
12. late		
13. beautifully		
14. loudly		
15. terribly		
16. safely		



Complete the sentences with comparative and superlative adverbs.



1. She even sang _____ (beautifully) than ever before.
2. The teacher spoke more _____ (slowly) to help us to understand.
3. He is not the best in English but always works _____ (hard) of us all.
4. John will have to leave _____ (early) than Kato.
5. Don't worry. I'll run _____ (fast) as I can.
6. She plays that difficult piano concert _____ (easily) as always.
7. Natascha does not speak Russian _____ (fluently) as Anouschka.
8. Thai people wake up much _____ (early) than most western people.
9. He explained the difficult subject _____ (clearly) than the professor.
10. Ken arrived _____ (late) of all the students.
11. Teenagers usually drive _____ (fast) than their parents.
12. My son cooks _____ (well) than me.



Form correct questions with the given words; possibly add new words.



1. what/ exciting game/you ever played.

What is the most exciting game you ever played?

2. what/expensive thing/you ever bought

3. what/big animal/you ever saw

4. what/country/far/ from your place of residence

5. What/subject/easy for you

6. Who/old person/you know

7. Who/good teacher/you know

8. What/good Chinese restaurant/in your city

9. What/interesting city/you know

10. Which/small/Spain/province/in



Form correct sentences. Some are positive (Yes), others are negative (No)



1. Orchids/beautiful/roses	No	<i>Roses are not as beautiful as orchids.</i>
2. Orange/sour/lemon	No	<i>An orange is not as sour as a lemon.</i>
3. Fan/cool/air conditioner	No	
4. Tigers/dangerous/lions	Yes	<i>Tigers are as dangerous as lions.</i>
5. Farmer/elegant/model	No	
6. He/old/she	Yes	
7. Adult/helpless/baby	No	
8. Snakes/lively/kittens	No	
9. Their dogs/skinny/ours	Yes	
10. Sharks/weak/jellyfish	No	
11. Geography/difficult/science	No	
12. Giraffes/strong/elephants	No	
13. Peter/optimistic/Lola	Yes	
14. This print/bad/that one	Yes	
15. Lannah/friendly/her dad	Yes	
16. Silver/heavy/gold	No	
17. Fern/lazy/Wannapa	Yes	
18. The sound of a violin/ low/the sound of a cello	No	
19. Today/windy/yesterday	No	
20 Somboon/smart/Champ	Yes	

Check if the words in the first column are 1 syllable adjectives,
3 syllable adjectives or 3 syllable adverbs.

Adjective/Adverb	1. syllable adjective	3. syllable adjective	3. syllable adverb
1. big	✓		
2. dangerous			
3. attractive			
4. thin			
5. happily			
6. great			
7. suddenly			✓
8. delicious			
9. wonderful			
10. excited			
11. tall			
12. angrily			
13. red			
14. correctly			
15. difficult			

Adjective/Adverb	1 syllables adjectives	3 syllable adjective	3 syllable adverb
16. fantastic			
17. excellent			
18. sad			
19. quietly			
20. silently			
21. quick			
22. fat			
23. amazing			
24. exactly			
25. aggressive			
26. abruptly			
27. short			
28. popular			
29. favorite			
30. easily			

Page 7.

1 bigger 2 more expensive 3 colder 4 more beautiful 5 healthier, better 6 faster 7 more thoughtful 8 shorter 9 longer 10 taller 11 more dangerous 12 fatter 13 smaller 14 more intelligent 15 more comfortable 16 more generous

Page 8.

1 the tallest 2 the largest 3 the oldest 4 the most delicious 5 most dangerous 6 the laziest 7 the most beautiful 8 the best 9 the most difficult 10 the longest 11 the funniest 12 the coldest 13 the most interesting 14 the worst 15 the most popular 16 the easiest 17 the cheapest

Page 11 and 12.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 angrier | is the angriest |
| 4 better | is the best |
| 5 is longer | is the longest |
| 6 is more surprising | is the most surprising |
| 7 are happier | are the happiest |
| 8 is more famous | are the most famous |
| 9 is easier | is the easiest |
| 10 are worse | are the worst |
| 11 is cheaper | is the cheapest |
| 12 is heavier | are the heaviest |
| 13 is more quiet | is the most quiet |
| 14 is farther | is the farthest |
| 15 are more disappointing | are the most disappointing |
| 16 is more tired | are the most tired |
| 17 is more painful | are the most painful |
| 18 is more interested | are the most interested |
| 19 are more heartless | are the most heartless |
| 20 more beautiful | are the most beautiful |
| 21 slower | is the slowest |
| 22 is sharper | is the sharpest |
| 23 more exciting | was the most exciting |

Page 13.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 faster | fastest |
| 2 more carefully | most carefully |
| 3 earlier | earliest |
| 4 more politely | most politely |
| 5 more quickly | most quickly |
| 6 better | best |
| 7 more angrily | most angrily |
| 8 more quietly | most quietly |
| 9 more generously | most generously |
| 10 more slowly | most slowly |
| 11 more badly | most badly |
| 12 later | latest |
| 13 more beautifully | most beautifully |
| 14 more loudly | most loudly |
| 15 more terribly | most terribly |
| 16 more safely | most safely |

Page 14.

1. more beautifully
2. more slowly
3. the hardest
4. earlier
5. as fast
6. as easily
7. as fluently
8. earlier
9. more clearly
10. the latest
11. faster

12 better

Page 15.

2. What is the most expensive thing you ever bought?
3. What is the biggest animal you ever saw?
4. What country is the farthest from your place of residence?
5. What lesson subject is the easiest for you?
6. Who is the oldest person you know?
7. Who is the best teacher you know?
8. What is the best Chinese restaurant in your city?
9. What is the most interesting city you know?
10. Which is the smallest province in Spain?

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- 3 A fan is not as cool as an air conditioner.
- 5 A farmer is not as elegant as a model.
- 6 He is as old as she.
- 7 An adult is not as helpless as a baby.
- 8 Snakes are not as lively as kittens.
- 9 Their dogs are as skinny as ours.
- 10 Sharks are not as weak as jellyfish.
- 11 Geography is not as difficult as science.
- 12 Giraffes are not as strong as elephants.
- 13 Peter is as optimistic as Lola.
- 14 This print is as bad as that one.
- 15 Lannah is as friendly as her dad.
- 16 Silver is not as heavy as gold.
- 17 Fern is as lazy as Wannapa.
- 18 The sound of a violin isn't as low as the sound of a cello.
- 19 Today is not as windy as yesterday.
- 20 Somboon is as smart as Champ.

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8. delicious		✓	
9. wonderful		✓	
10. excited		✓	
11. tall	✓		
12. angrily			✓
13. red	✓		
14. correctly			✓
15. difficult		✓	

Adjective/Adverb	1 syllables adjectives	3 syllable adjective	3 syllable adverb
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17. excellent		✓	
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20. silently			✓
21. quick	✓		
22. fat	✓		
23. amazing		✓	
24. exactly			✓
25. aggressive		✓	
26. abruptly			✓
27. short	✓		
28. popular		✓	
29. favorite		✓	
30. easily			✓

