

Comparative adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (*larger, smaller, faster, higher*). They are used in sentences where two nouns are compared, in this pattern:

Noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + *than* + noun (object).

☞ The second item of comparison can be omitted if it is clear from the context.

- My house is **larger** than hers.
- This box is **smaller** than the one I lost.
- Your dog runs **faster** than Jim's dog.
- The rock flew **higher** than the roof.
- Jim and Jack are both my friends, but I like Jack **better**. ("than Jim" is understood)

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (*the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest*). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects.

Noun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + *in/of* + noun (object).

- My house is the **largest** one in our neighborhood.
- This is the **smallest** box I've ever seen.
- Your dog ran the **fastest** of any dog in the race.
- We all threw our rocks at the same time. My rock flew the **highest**. ("of all the rocks" is understood)

Short adjectives (one syllable) usually add *-er* for *Comparative* and *-est* for *Superlative*

old - older - the oldest

young - younger - the youngest

small - smaller - the smallest

Spelling rules:

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

nice - nicer - the nicest

large - larger - the largest

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

big - bigger - the biggest

fat - fatter - the fattest

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

happy - happier - the happiest

easy - easier - the easiest

✧ **Irregular comparatives and superlatives**

These very common adjectives have completely **irregular** comparative and superlative forms.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	further / farther	furthest / farthest

Long adjectives - Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting *more* in front of the adjective, and the superlative by putting *most* in front.

important - **more** important - the **most** important

beautiful - **more** beautiful - the **most** beautiful

Practice

I. Write *comparative* sentences using the adjectives in brackets

1. My house is (big) _____ than yours.
2. This flower is (beautiful) _____ than that one.
3. A holiday by the sea is (good) _____ than a holiday in the mountains.
4. The weather this summer is even (bad) _____ than last summer.
5. I think mathematics is (difficult) _____ than English.

II. Complete the sentences. Use the *comparative*.

1. Joe's car isn't very fast. He wants a _____ one.
2. My job isn't very interesting. I want to do something _____
3. The weather isn't very warm today. Yesterday it was _____
4. People aren't very polite today. In the past they were _____
5. This sofa isn't very comfortable. That one is _____
6. This coat is nice, but I think the other one is _____

III. Complete with a *superlative* adjective and all the necessary words.

1. London is (large) city in England.
2. Cheetahs are (fast) animals in the world.
3. Whales are (big) animals.
4. San Francisco is (beautiful) city in the United States.
5. Summer is(good) season of the year.

IV. Please write the correct form of the adjective in parentheses.

1. Timmy is(young) than his brother.
2. Sheila ran..... (fast) than I did.
3. Tom is (angry)than his boss about the situation.
4. The book is..... (slow) than the movie.
5. The weather is(hot) today than yesterday.
6. Jeff is the (big)football player in the team.
7. Tom is the..... (happy) of all the students.
8. The puppy was the..... (fat) one in the litter.
9. Bess lost weight and is the(thin) woman in the room.
10. Tom has the(red) hair I have ever seen.
11. Ted is(handsome) than his father.
12. The book is(exciting) than the movie.
13. She seems(sympathetic) than her friend.
14. Brent wrote the(interesting) essay of the two.
15. Of the two assistants, Roxanne seems(competent).
16. This is the(accurate) story I have ever read.
17. Of all the chefs, Todd made the(delicious) cake.
18. He has the..... (vicious) dog in the neighborhood.