

The comparative and the superlative

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

Superlative adjectives

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.

Forming regular comparatives and superlatives

Forming comparatives and superlatives is easy. The form depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective.

One syllable adjectives

Add *-er* for the comparative and *-est* for the superlative. If the adjective has a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

Adjective	comparative	superlative
tall	taller	tallest
fat	fatter	fattest
big	bigger	biggest
sad	sadder	saddest

Two or more syllables

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.

Exceptions:

happy	happier	happiest
Busy	busier	busiest
Simple	simpler	simplest

Adjective

important

expensive

Comparative

more important

more expensive

Superlative

most important

most expensive

Irregular comparatives and superlatives

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative

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

Examples

- Today is the **worst** day I've had in a long time.
- You play tennis **better** than I do.
- This is the **least** expensive sweater in the store.
- This sweater is **less** expensive than that one.
- I ran pretty far yesterday, but I ran even **farther** today.