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Portfolio Item: Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Comparatives are used when comparing *two* or more things. Examples:

- [adjective: **tall**] Burj Khalifa is **taller** *than* Big Ben.
- [adjective: **large**] Oman is **larger** *than* Qatar.
- [adjective: **narrow**] The roads in London are **narrower** *than* those in Abu Dhabi.
- [adjective: **big**] London is **bigger** *than* Dubai.
- [adjective: **beautiful**] Sunsets are **more beautiful** *than* sunrises.
- [adjective: **beautiful**] Sunrises are **less beautiful** *than* sunsets.
- [adjective: **happy**] At the moment John is **happier** *than* James.
- [adjective: **good**] Paper dictionaries are **better** *than* electronic ones!
- [adjective: **bad**] This car is **worse** *than* that car.
- [adjective: **little**] There are **less** students in this class *than* that class.
- [adjective: **many**] There are **more** animals in Al Ain Zoo than in Dubai Zoo.
- [adjective: **far**] New York is **further** *than* Paris from Dubai.

Superlatives are used to talk about *one* thing: e.g. it is the tallest, biggest etc. Examples:

- [adjective: **tall**] Burj Khalifa is **the tallest** building in the world.
- [adjective: **large**] Saudi Arabia is **the largest** Arab Gulf country.
- [adjective: **narrow**] The roads in London are **the narrowest**.
- [adjective: **big**] Jebel Hafeet is **the biggest** mountain in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- [adjective: **beautiful**] Sunsets are **the most beautiful**.
- [adjective: **beautiful**] Sunrises are **the least beautiful**.
- [adjective: **happy**] Julie is always **happiest** on Fridays.
- [adjective: **good**] Nissan Patrols are **the best**!
- [adjective: **bad**] The weather in England is **the worst** between November and March.
- [adjective: **little**] This class has **the least** students.
- [adjective: **many**] This class **the most** students.
- [adjective: **far**] **The furthest** point from the North Pole is the South Pole.

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FORMING COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

1. One-syllable adjectives

Normally, a one-syllable adjective is formed into a comparative by adding **-er** and a superlative by adding **-est**.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Long	Longer	Longest
Old	Older	Oldest

2. One-syllable adjectives with a final -e

If the one-syllable adjective ends with an **-e**, add **-r** for the comparative form and **-st** for the superlative form.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Large	Larger	Largest
Wise	Wiser	Wisest

3. One-syllable adjectives ending with a single consonant with a single vowel before it

Double the consonant and add **-er** for the comparative; double the consonant and add **-est** for the superlative.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Thin	Thinner	Thinnest

4. Two-syllable adjectives

Normally, from a two-syllable adjective, you form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **most**.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Careful	more careful	most careful
Peaceful	more peaceful	most peaceful

5. Two-syllable adjectives ending with -y

Change the **y** to **i** and add **-er** for the comparative form and add **-est** for the superlative.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Busy	Busier	Busiest
Happy	Happier	Happiest

6. Two-syllable adjective ending with -er, -le, or -ow

Double the consonant and add **-er** for the comparative; double the consonant and add **-est** for the superlative.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Little	Littler	Littlest
Narrow	Narrower	Narrowest



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7. Adjective with three or more syllables

For such adjectives comparatives and superlatives are preceded by **more** and **most** respectively.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
Important	more important	most important

8. Irregular adjectives

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Far	Farther	Farthest
Little	Less	Least
Many	More	Most

9. Two-syllable adjectives that have two possible forms

These examples can be used in either way; the choice will depend on the context or personal choice.

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Clever	Cleverer	Cleverest
	more clever	most clever
Gentle	Gentler	Gentlest
	more gentle	most gentle
Friendly	Friendlier	Friendliest
	more friendly	most friendly
Quiet	Quieter	Quietest
	more quiet	most quiet
Simple	Simpler	Simplest
	more simple	most simple

EXERCISES

1. The superlative of “soft”? [A] softest [B] softiest [C] softtest [D] most soft
2. The superlative of “deep”? [A] deeper [B] most deep [C] deepest [D] deeper
3. The comparative of “sad”? [A] sader [B] sadder [C] sadier [D] saddier
4. The superlative of “ugly”? [A] uglier [B] ugliest [C] uglyest [D] ugliest
5. The comparative of “joyful”? [A] joyfuller [B] more joyfuller [C] more joyful
6. The comparative of “narrow”? [A] narrowwer [B] more narrow [C] narrower
7. The superlative of “hot”? [A] hottest [B] hottest [C] most hot [D] hotter
8. The comparative of “lazy”? [A] lazyest [B] lazier [C] lazyyer

Hot	Difficult	Tall
Good (2)	Important	Easy

Use the appropriate adjective from the box above to complete the sentences below.
Remember, you *may* need to add words such as more, most, the and than...

9. The weather in the UAE is the weather in Europe.
10. This grammar topic is much the last one.
11. Everest is the world's mountain.
12. She is singer I have ever heard.
13. I'm at mathematics than I am at science.
14. The mobile phone must be one of the inventions of all time.
15. For some students mathematics is the subject they take.