

## Making Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

To make the comparative form of adjectives (like 'bigger' or 'more expensive') and the superlative form (like 'biggest' or 'most expensive'), first we need to know how many syllables are in the adjective.

### Adjectives with one syllable

Usually if an adjective has only one syllable, we add 'er' to make the comparative form. We add 'est' to make the superlative form.

- clean → cleaner / cleanest
- cold → colder / coldest
- small → smaller / smallest
- young → younger / youngest
- tall → taller / tallest

There are some spelling changes. If there is one vowel followed by one consonant at the end of the adjective, we often double the consonant.

- wet → wetter / wettest
- big → bigger / biggest
- hot → hotter / hottest
- thin → thinner / thinnest

If the adjective ends in 'y', this often changes to 'i'.

- dry → drier / driest

If the adjective ends in 'e', we don't add another 'e', just 'r'.

- nice → nicer / nicest
- large → larger / largest

There are a few adjectives that we have to use 'more' or 'most' with, even though they only have one syllable. We CAN'T add 'er' or 'est'.

- fun → more fun / most fun (NOT ~~funner / funnest~~)
- real → more real / most real (NOT ~~realer / realest~~)
- right → more right / most right (NOT ~~righter / rightest~~)
- wrong → more wrong / most wrong (NOT ~~wronger / wrongest~~)

## Adjectives with two syllables

For adjectives with two syllables we generally use 'more' or 'most'.

- careful → more careful / most careful
- bored → more bored / most bored

But some two syllable adjectives can take 'er' or 'est'. It's also fine to use 'more' (for the comparative) or 'most' (for the superlative).

- clever → cleverer
- simple → simpler
- narrow → narrower
- quiet → quieter

Adjectives with two syllables that end in 'y' usually can add 'er' or 'est' (y generally changes to i). It's also fine to use 'more'.

- dirty → dirtier / dirtiest
- pretty → prettier / prettiest
- happy → happier / happiest
- ugly → uglier / ugliest

## Adjectives with more than two syllables

Adjectives with more than two syllables can only make their comparative by using 'more' and their superlatives by using 'most'.

- beautiful → more beautiful / most beautiful
- intelligent → more intelligent / most intelligent
- interesting → more interesting / most interesting
- expensive → more expensive / most expensive

## Irregular Adjectives

There are also some irregular adjectives. We just need to learn these forms.

- good → better / best
- bad → worse / worst
- far → further / furthest
- little → less / least
- much → more / most

## Using Comparative Adjectives

### Comparative structures: things or people that are the same

First, we can use 'as ... as' with a normal adjective (not a comparative) to say two things are the same:

- John is as tall as Luke (= they are the same height).
- The red shirt is as expensive as the blue shirt (= they are the same price).

We can use 'not as ... as' to say that two things are not the same.

- Lucy is not as tall as Helena (= Helena is taller than Lucy).
- Paris is not as big as London (= London is bigger than Paris).

### Comparative Structures: one thing or person is more than another thing or person

We can say that something is more than another thing by using a comparative adjective with 'than'.

- France is bigger than Scotland.
- Luke is taller than Lucy.
- Your book is more interesting than my book.

We can make the comparison stronger by using 'far' or 'much' or 'a lot' before the adjective. We can make it less strong by using 'a little' or 'a bit'.

- Canada is far bigger than Scotland.
- Your book is much more interesting than my book.
- Amanda is a lot younger than Julie.
- This exercise is a little more difficult than that exercise.

We can say that one thing or person is less than another thing by using 'less ... than':

- Scotland is less big than France.
- Lucy is less tall than Luke.
- My book is less interesting than your book.

### Comparative Structures: something is changing

To show something is changing, we can use 'comparative and comparative' or 'more and more adjective'.

- That child is getting taller and taller.
- The climate is getting hotter and hotter.
- This city is becoming more and more crowded.

## Using Superlative Adjectives

We use a superlative to say that a thing or person is the most of a group. When we use a superlative adjective ('the **tallest** student') before a noun, we generally use it with 'the'. This is because there's only one (or one group) of the thing we are talking about. There is one student who is the tallest in the class, and because it's clear to the listener which one we mean, we usually use 'the':

- She's **the** most beautiful girl I've ever seen.
- It's **the** best café in London.
- John and Lisa are **the** most intelligent students here.
- This bowl is **the** biggest one.

Remember, we don't use *the* when there is a possessive:

- He's my best student.
- That's our most important goal.

