

Comparative & Superlative

	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
one-/two-syllable adjectives	short big wide	shorter (than) bigger (than) wider (than)	the shortest the biggest the widest
-y adjectives	happy	happier (than)	the happiest
more than two-syllable adjectives	beautiful	more beautiful (than)	the most beautiful
irregular adjectives	good bad much/many little far	better (than) worse (than) more (than) less (than) farther (than)/ further (than)	the best the worst the most the least the farthest/ the furthest

Form

- With **one-syllable** and **two-syllable adjectives** we add **-er** in the comparative and **-est** in the superlative.
small - smaller (than) - the smallest
- With **adjectives of more than two syllables** we form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **the most**.
expensive - more expensive (than) - the most expensive (of/in)

Spelling

- With **one-syllable adjectives** ending in **-e** we add **-r** in the comparative and **-st** in the superlative.
nice - nicer (than) - the nicest
- With **one-syllable adjectives** that end in **vowel + consonant**, we **double the last consonant** and we add **-er** or **-est**.
thin - thinner (than) - the thinnest
- With **two-syllable adjectives** that end in **-y**, we change the **-y** to **-i** and we add **-er** or **-est**.
busy - busier (than) - the busiest (of/in)

Use

- We use **the comparative** to compare *one person or thing with another*. We can use **than** with the comparative.
Mark is more intelligent than Tony.
Trains are faster than cars.
- We use **the superlative** to compare *one person, animal, thing, etc with more than two persons, animals, things, etc in the same group*. We use **the ... of/in** with the superlative. We use **in** with the superlative when we talk about a place.
The cheetah is the fastest animal of all.
Judy is the tallest girl in the class.
- We use **(not) as + adjective + as** to show whether two people, places or things are the same or not.
The red dress is not as expensive as the blue one.

For emphasis we use:

- very + adjective**. *It is very cold today.*
- much/a lot/far/a little/a bit + comparative form + than**. *He isn't much younger than me.*

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19 a) Complete the table.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
	better	
noisy		
	cheaper	
		the least
fit		
much/many		
		the tallest
	more crowded	
poisonous		
		the safest

b) Complete the sentences with adjectives from the table.

- Buses are always than trains and I can never find a seat on them.
- Now that school is over, we have free time.
- With all those people and traffic coming and going every day, the centre is part of the city.
- The African Black Mamba is one of snakes in the world; its bite is lethal.
- Taxis are fast and take you where you want in time than many other forms of transport.
- Matt is so funny! He tells jokes in the family.
- Ian works out at the gym every day, because he wants to become than he is now.
- You should buy a return ticket, because it's than buying two single ones.
- Basketball players are generally than football players.
- Many people believe that aeroplanes offer way to travel, as they have a very low accident count.

20 Complete the questions with the correct *comparative/superlative* form of the adjectives in brackets, and then choose the correct answer.

- 1 Which is (heavy) of all land animals?
A the rhino B the giraffe
C the elephant
- 2 Which river is (long) than the Amazon?
A the Thames B the Volga C the Nile
- 3 On which continent is (hot) place on Earth?
A North America B Africa
C Asia
- 4 Which country is (big) in size than the USA?
A Russia B Australia C Brazil
- 5 Which continent receives (little) amount of rain every year?
A Europe B Antarctica C Asia
- 6 Which European city is (populated) than London?
A Moscow B Rome C Warsaw

21 Put the adjectives in brackets into the correct form.

- 1 James finds going to the amusement park a lot (enjoyable) than spending time at the games arcade.
- 2 Lisa is (attractive) girl in our school.
- 3 Our new neighbours are very (friendly).
- 4 John's room is the (messy) one in the house.
- 5 Saturday morning is (bad) time to go shopping; the shops are always extremely busy and crowded then.
- 6 Snake bites are a lot (painful) than insect stings.
- 7 Jason's car isn't as (fast) as Ethan's.
- 8 I think the staff at the new restaurant are a bit rude and should be (polite) to customers.

22 Read the information below about three sisters, then complete the sentences using the correct form of the adjectives in the list.

- short • artistic • old • dark • young
- athletic • heavy • tall



A

Marisa

Date of birth: 4th April, 1992

Height: 1.73 metres

Weight: 64 kilos

Hobbies: painting

Date of birth: 9th January, 1994

Height: 1.69 metres

Weight: 59 kilos

Hobbies: going out with friends





A

Ellie

Date of birth: 3rd July, 1997

Height: 1.63 metres

Weight: 51 kilos

Hobbies: sports

- 1 Marisa is of the three sisters. She's 1.73 metres.
- 2 Sarah is three years than Ellie.
- 3 Marisa is of the three sisters; she loves painting and takes part in art competitions.
- 4 Sarah isn't as as Ellie; she prefers going out with friends to playing sports.
- 5 At 1.63 metres, Ellie is of the three sisters.
- 6 Marisa is the of the three sisters. She weighs 64 kilos.
- 7 Ellie is five years than Marisa.
- 8 Marisa and Sarah have fair hair, but Ellie's hair is than her sisters'.