

## Comparative and superlative forms + adjectives

### COMPARATIVES

- How do we form comparative statements? Study the grammar reference chart below.

#### Adjectives with one syllable: add '-er' or '-r' + 'than'

cold	colder than	"In Canada, winter is <b>colder than</b> summer."
nice	nicer than	"Chocolate ice-cream is <b>nicer than</b> strawberry ice-cream."

#### Adjectives with two or more syllables: add 'more' + 'than'

boring	more boring than	"I think golf is <b>more boring than</b> baseball."
expensive	more expensive than	"This restaurant is <b>more expensive than</b> that restaurant."

#### Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y': change '-y' to '-i' and add '-er' + 'than'

early	earlier than	"He arrived at school <b>earlier than</b> I did."
happy	happier than	"John looks <b>happier than</b> David."

#### Adjectives that end with a single vowel and a consonant: double the final letter before adding 'than'

big	bigger than	"Russia is <b>bigger than</b> Canada."
hot	hotter than	"In my country, August is <b>hotter than</b> January."

NOTE: When a comparative statement is used to answer a question, it is not necessary to use 'than' if only one person, place or thing is mentioned.

Example:  
(A) Which month is **hotter**, January or August?  
(B) August is **hotter**.

#### Irregular Comparative Adjectives:

good - **better than**  
bad - **worse than**  
far - **farther than / further than**

#### Special cases

happy - **happier**  
gentle - **gentler - more gentle**  
narrow - **narrower - more narrow**  
quiet - **quieter - more quiet**  
simple - **simpler - more simple**

For some compound adjectives, you change the first part of the compound.

Good-looking **better**-looking **the best**-looking  
Bad-tempered **worse**-tempered **the worst**-tempered  
Long-lasting **longer**-lasting **the longest**-lasting

### 1) Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative form	Superlative form
cold	colder	the coldest
Fat		
Happy		
high		
lucky		
relaxed		
athletic	more athletic	the most athletic
badly-dressed		
big		

### SUPERLATIVES

- How do we form superlative statements? Study the grammar reference chart below.

#### Adjectives with one syllable: add 'the' + '-est' or '-st'

cold	<b>the coldest</b>	"January is often <b>the coldest</b> winter month."
nice	<b>the nicest</b>	"She is <b>the nicest</b> person I know."

#### Adjectives with two or more syllables: add 'the' + 'most'

boring	<b>the most boring</b>	"It's <b>the most boring</b> movie at the cinema."
expensive	<b>the most expensive</b>	"We ate at <b>the most expensive</b> restaurant in town."

#### Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y': change '-y' to '-i' and add 'the'

early	<b>the earliest</b>	"He was <b>the earliest</b> person to arrive"
happy	<b>the happiest</b>	"It was <b>the happiest</b> time of my life."

#### Adjectives that end with a vowel and a consonant: double the final letter before adding 'the' + '-est'

big	<b>the biggest</b>	"Russia is <b>the biggest</b> country in the world."
hot	<b>the hottest</b>	"August is usually <b>the hottest</b> summer month."

#### Adjectives that are irregular:

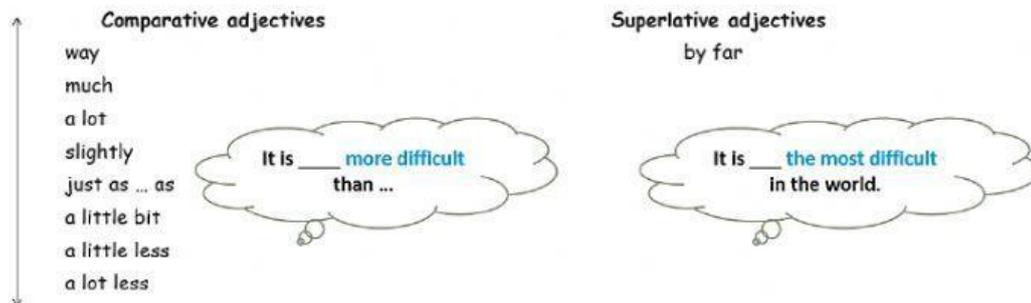
good	<b>the best</b>	"She is <b>the best</b> student in our class."
bad	<b>the worst</b>	"It was <b>the worst</b> storm in many years."
far	<b>the farthest / the furthest</b>	"He lives <b>the farthest/furthest</b> from my home."

extreme		
gentle		
good-looking		
healthy		
well-paid		
intelligent		

2) Put the adjectives in parenthesis into the comparative and superlative form. Insert **THAN** and **THE** where necessary.

- a My friends are funnier than (funny) me.
- b I'm \_\_\_\_\_ (lucky) person that I know.
- c I feel \_\_\_\_\_ (relaxed) today than yesterday.
- d My kitchen is \_\_\_\_\_ (cold) place in the house.
- e My sister is \_\_\_\_\_ (pretty) girl in the world.
- f I find history \_\_\_\_\_ (interesting) sports.
- g \_\_\_\_\_ (sad) movie I've ever seen is *The Fault in Our Stars*.
- h I'm usually \_\_\_\_\_ (happy) my best friend.

### Comparative and superlative adjectives



Mandarin is **way more** difficult than English.  
USA is **way larger** than Ecuador.

Mandarin is **by far** the most difficult language.  
Russia is **by far** the largest country in the world.

3) Choose the correct alternative.

- a Scuba diving in the Bahamas was **by far** / **slightly** the most exciting thing I've ever done.
- b It was **by far** / **much** easier than I thought.
- c The Bahamas are **a lot** / **just as** good for diving as the Red Sea.
- d The hotels are **by far** / **slightly** more expensive than in my country.
- e The weather is **a lot** / **by far** hotter in the summer.
- f My last vacation wasn't **a bit** / **nearly** as nice as this.

4) Write comparative sentences using the words in parenthesis.

- a) Skydiving / extreme / ping pong (much)

- Skydiving is much more extreme than ping pong.*
- b) Soccer players / well-paid / squash players (way)
  - c) A basketball / big / a volleyball / (a little bit)
  - d) Tennis / popular / judo (slightly)
  - e) Cyclists / athletic / golfers (much)
  - f) Surfers / good-looking / boxers (a lot)

## Grammar: negative comparisons

Use **not as... as** to make negative comparisons.

You can use **nearly** or **quite** to modify negative comparisons.

Gold **isn't nearly as exciting as** motor racing.

A soccer field **isn't quite as big as** a rugby field.

Tennis **isn't nearly as popular as** soccer.

### 5) Rewrite the sentences, beginning with words given.

- a) Tennis is more popular than Badminton.  
Badminton isn't as popular as tennis.
- b) Bungee jumping isn't as difficult as kite surfing.  
Kite surfing is
- c) La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires is not as big as the Maracana Stadium in Rio.  
The Maracana Stadium in Rio is
- d) The Red Sox are better than the Cubs.  
The Cubs aren't
- e) Baseball isn't nearly as exciting as soccer.  
Soccer is a lot
- f) Snowboarding is much more fashionable than fishing.  
Fishing isn't
- g) Horseback riding isn't as dangerous as boxing.  
Boxing is

### 6) Rewrite the sentences with NEARLY or QUITE so they have the same meaning.

- a) *Skydiving is much more extreme than ping pong*  
→ *Ping pong isn't nearly as extreme as skydiving.*
- b) Soccer players are way better-paid than squash players.
- c) A basketball is a little bit bigger than a volleyball.
- d) Tennis is slightly more popular than judo
- e) Cyclists are much more athletic than golfers.
- f) Surfers are a lot better-looking than boxers.