

Comparatives and superlatives (part 2)

comparatives

adjective		comparative	rule
one-syllable adjectives	cold	colder	adjective + -er
some two-syllable adjectives	quiet	quieter	
adjectives: ending in -e ending in -y ending in a consonant + vowel + consonant	large	larger	
	noisy	noisier	
	hot	hotter	adjective + -r adjective → + -ier double the final consonant of the adjective + -er
many two-syllable adjectives	boring	more boring	more + adjective
all longer adjectives	expensive	more expensive	
irregular adjectives	good	better	
	bad	worse	
	far	further/farther	

Use comparatives (+ *than*) to compare things and people.

*My sister's **taller than** me. A restaurant is **quieter than** a disco.*

1) Complete the text with the comparative form of the adjectives in brackets.

Race across London

Which is faster – public transport, cycling or driving? In this week's Travel Challenge three reporters travel across London in a race to be the first person to the London Barrier. But whose form of transport is _____ (good)?

Alfie: I'm completing the challenge in my car. It's quicker, _____ (comfortable) and a lot cheaper than public transport. And who says it's _____ (dirty) than public transport – look at the pollution from buses!

Tessa: I know cycling _____ (slow) than the other two on a clear road but London has a lot of traffic and it's _____ (busy) in the rush hour when we're racing. The quickest form of transport isn't important in these conditions – it's the smartest way to travel. Unfortunately it's also _____ (dangerous) than the others.

Troy: I need to think quicker than the others and get my times right. I'm using public transport, so missing a bus or tube is a _____ (big) problem than the traffic for me.

2) Read the text in Exercise 1 again and write the correct sentences.

- 1 Alfie thinks that public transport is cheaper than a car.
- 2 Alfie thinks his car is dirtier than public transport.
- 3 Tess thinks public transport is more dangerous than cycling.
- 4 Tessa thinks that using the quickest form of transport is more important than choosing the smartest way to travel.
- 5 Troy thinks that traffic is a bigger problem than missing a bus.

3) Look at the table below and make sentences. Use the adjectives in brackets to help.

1. plane/bus (fast)

2. car/plane (comfortable)

3. train/bus (expensive)

4. bus/car (long)

Istanbul to Ankara – travel options				
	plane	train	car	bus
seats	+++	++++	+	++
time	++++	+++	++	+
comfort	+	++++	+++	+
cost	+++	++++	+++	++

4) Complete the sentences with comparative forms of the words in brackets.

- 1 The ...*harder*..... you study, the ...*faster*..... you learn. (hard, fast)
- 2 The _____ he waited, the _____ he became. (long, impatient)
- 3 The _____ the weather, the _____ I feel. (warm, good)
- 4 The _____ we got to the exam room, the _____ we felt. (near, nervous)
- 5 The _____ the music, the _____ the crowd became. (loud, excited)
- 6 The _____ the match, the _____ the players get. (important, aggressive)

superlatives

adjective	superlative	rule
cold	the coldest	<i>the + adjective + -est</i> <i>the + adjective + -st</i> <i>the + adjective -y + -iest</i> double the final consonant of the adjective + -est
nice	the nicest	
friendly	the friendliest	
big	the biggest	
boring	the most boring	<i>the most + adjective</i>
interesting	the most interesting	
good	the best	
bad	the worst	
far	the furthest/farthest	

Use superlatives to talk about the number one thing in a group.

*Maria's spelling is **the best** in the class.*

Note: The spelling rules for superlatives are the same as for comparatives.

5) Complete the questions. Use the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

- 1 Which _____ (fast) way to travel?
- 2 Which _____ (slow) way to get there?
- 3 Which _____ (expensive) form of transport?
- 4 Which _____ (cheap) form of transport?

5 Which _____ (comfortable) way to get there?

6 Which _____ (good) way to get to Ankara?

6) Underline the correct alternative.

Bad? It was the *worse/worst* experience of my life! The hotel was *much more/most* expensive than we imagined. It was also *bigger/biggest* than it looked in the photos – not a boutique hotel at all. The staff never seemed to smile – they were *unfriendly / the most unfriendly* people I've ever met. They were also *the noisiest/noiser* ! Every night there was something going on. The journeys between towns were *difficult/more difficult* than they said. The one good thing was that the weather was *hot/hotter* than I expected. Next year will be *better/the best* !

Nothing could be as bad as this!

7) Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) or a comparative (er or more ...).

1 We stayed at _____ hotel in the town. (cheap)

2 Our hotel was _____ than all the others in the town. (cheap)

3 The United States is very large, but Canada is _____. (large)

4 What's country in the world? (small)

5 I wasn't feeling well yesterday, but I feel a bit _____ today. (good)

6 It was an awful day. It was _____ day of my life. (bad)

7 What is _____ sport in your country? (popular)

8 Everest is _____ mountain in the world. It is _____ than any other mountain. (high)

9 This building is over 250 m. high, but it's not _____ in the city. (tall)

10 I prefer this chair to the other one. It's _____. (comfortable)

11 What's _____ way to get to the station? (quick)

12 Which is _____ – the bus or the train? (quick)

13 What's _____ thing you've ever bought? (expensive)

14 Sue and Kevin have got three daughters. _____ is 14 years old. (old)