

Comparison of Adjectives

Comparatives

Adjectives can be compared to determine equal, superior or inferior characteristics.

Equality	Inferiority	Superiority
To compare equal characteristics of two people or things we use as before and after the adjective. My car is as fast as your car. The negative is formed by adding not: Peter is not as good at driving as Mary. In American English the form not so + adjective + as is sometimes used. The show was not so nice as I expected.	Another way to talk about a person or thing not as good as someone or something else is by using less + adjective + than. This garage is less expensive than the one in my town. Is Thomas less helpful than Anna?	Short adjectives (of one syllable, or two-syllable adjectives that end in -y) form the comparative by adding -er and the word than. Tom's car is bigger than mine. For long adjectives the word more is inserted before. Their house is more comfortable than Peter's. My CV is more interesting than his.

Superlatives

Short adjectives (of one syllable, or two-syllable adjectives that end in -y) form the superlative by adding **-est**. We put **the** before the superlative.

Their shop is **the nicest** in town.

He has **the fastest** car.

For long adjectives the words **the most** are inserted.

Their boss is **the most reliable** person there.

Smithcars was **the most modern garage** in Bray then.

Exceptions

- Some adjectives can form the comparative and superlative in two ways.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
friendly	friendlier	the friendliest
	more friendly	the most friendly
simple	simpler	the simplest
	more simple	the most simple

- There are also some irregular adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst

SPELLING TIPS

1. Short adjectives ending in a single consonant with a single vowel before it, **double** the last consonant.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	the biggest



2. Short adjectives ending in **-y**, change the **y** into **i** before adding **-er** or **-est**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	the happiest

3. One syllable adjectives ending in **-e** only add **-r** for the comparative and **-st** for the superlative forms.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
large	larger	the largest

1. Complete the chart with the comparative and superlative form of the following adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger than	the biggest
expensive		
heavy		
hot		
fantastic		
ugly		
good		
interesting		
large		
powerful		

2. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the comparative of superiority of the adjectives in brackets.

- Football is **more popular than** boxing in Spain. (popular)
- Ferrari cars are _____ Hyundai cars. (stylish)
- The new model is much _____ the previous one. (expensive)
- She was _____ when she worked here. (happy)
- You will be _____ after your course. (confident)
- That bike is _____ mine. (nice)

3. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the superlative of the adjectives in brackets.
- a) Ángel Nieto was **the fastest** motorcycle racer in Spain. (fast)
 - b) This sports car is _____ I have ever seen. (powerful)
 - c) For me, Fernando Alonso is _____ Formula One driver! (good)
 - d) I love my Nissan Cube. It is _____ car at the moment. (original)
 - e) He is _____ mechanic in this garage. (skilled)
 - f) This garage is _____ in town. (big)

4. Choose the correct alternative. Circle it.
- a) This was the **best** better CV we received.
 - b) That day was the busiest/busiest of the year.
 - c) He can drive the faster/the fastest cars.
 - d) I wanted to try more modern/moderner car engines.
 - e) The salary at Thames is more generous than/the most generous in town.
 - f) You will be as good as/better than him when you finish your training.

5. Fill in the gaps with the right form of the adjective in brackets: comparative or superlative. You may need to add some extra words.
- a) For me, this sedan is **more comfortable** than a convertible. (comfortable)
 - b) My motorcycle is _____ than your old moped. (fast)
 - c) In your opinion, which car has _____ engine of all? (good)
 - d) Your mechanic is _____ in town. (reliable)
 - e) In my opinion, a car is _____ than a motorbike. (safe)
 - f) Which is _____ car in the world? (cool)

6. Compare the motorcycles below using the comparative form of the adjectives in the box and the information given.

big		useful	fashionable	powerful	cheap	cool	expensive	fast
a)		Price £ 5,880.90		150 kph 750 CV	b)		Price £ 2,442.45	
							50 kph	
							50 CV	