GRAMMAR Comparative and superlative adverbs

1 **Look at the adverbs in the sentences. Decide which ones are simple adverbs, comparative adverbs or superlative adverbs.**

1 In international tests of maths, science and reading, students in Finland do well.
2 When you look more carefully at the schools, it's not easy to explain.
3 So, why don't they do badly in tests?
4 Do students learn better when the school day is shorter?
5 When there is no exam, do students study hard?
6 Do students learn more efficiently when they study subjects or when they study a topic?
7 So, how do some experts believe we learn the most easily?

Simple	Comparative	Superlative

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Look at the comparative and superlative adverbs and in Exercise 1 again and answer the question.

Which word do we often use before superlative adverbs?

Simple	Comparative	Superlative
well	more carefully	the most easily
badly	better	
hard	more efficiently	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

UNIT 5 COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

Adjective	Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
		Regular	
slow	slowly	more slowly	the most slowly
easy	easily	more easily	the most easily
simple	simply	more simply	the most simply
beautiful	beautifully	more beautifully	the most beautifully
		Irregular	
good	well	better	the best
fast	fast	faster	the fastest
hard	hard	harder	the hardest
late	late	later	the latest

We use **adjectives** to describe a noun and **adverbs** to describe a verb.

- We form most adverbs by adding *-ly* to the adjective.
  bad → badly, careful → carefully, easy → easily
- Some adverbs do not end in *-ly*.
  good → well, fast → fast, hard → hard, late → late

We use **comparative adverbs** to compare two things.
*My brother talks **more quickly** than me.*

- We use *more* with adjectives that finish in *-ly*.
  *Jack did the exam **more carefully** than Nick.*
- The opposite of *more* is *less*.
  *Nick did the exam **less carefully** than Jack.*
- We add *-er* to *fast*, *hard* and *late*.
  *Peter swims **faster** than Mike. Jim arrived **later** than me.*
- The comparative form of the adverb *well* is *better*.
  *My sister speaks French **better** than my mum.*
- The comparative form of the adverb *badly* is *worse*.
  *I did much **worse** in my exam than Theo.*
- We can also use *(not) as* + adverb + *as* to compare things.
  *Oliver talks **as loudly as** Phil.* (= They both talk loudly.)
  *Jane doesn't write **as quickly as** Paula.* (= Paula writes more quickly than Jane.)

We use **superlative adverbs** to compare one thing with two or more other things.
*My dad walks **the most slowly** in our family.*

- We use *most* with adverbs that finish in *-ly*.
  *Of all our teachers, our maths teacher speaks **the most quickly**.*
- The opposite of *most* is *least*.
  *Kevin did his exam **the least carefully**.*
- We add *-est* to *fast*, *hard* and *late*.
  *Jason ran **the fastest**, so he won the race.*
- The superlative form of the adverb *well* is *the best*.
  *My grandma cooks **the best** in my house.*
- The superlative form of the adverb *badly* is *the worst*.
  *None of the teams played very well, but our team played **the worst**.*
- We can also use *often* to compare things.
  *When I was young, I played football **the most often**.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice

1 **Write the adverb, comparative and superlative adverbs of the adjective.**

1 cheap, *cheaply*, _____, _____
2 heavy, _____, _____, _____
3 fast, _____, _____, _____
4 bad, _____, _____, _____
5 serious, _____, _____, _____
6 wonderful, _____, _____, _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Complete the table.

Adjective	Simple adverb	Comparative adverb	Superlative adverb
bad	1 _____	*worse*	*the worst*
2 _____	3 _____	4 _____	*the best*
5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	*the most carefully*
8 _____	*efficiently*	9 _____	10 _____
easy	11 _____	12 _____	13 _____
14 _____	15 _____	*harder*	16 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 **Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adverb in brackets.**

0 Natalie ran *the fastest* (fast), so she won the race.
1 Laura won the competition because she danced _____ (beautiful).
2 I watch films _____ (often) than sports programmes.
3 My sister plays the guitar _____ (well) than me.
4 Matt's mum helped him, so he finished the homework _____ (easily) than us.
5 Luke's teacher was happy with him because he did the exercise _____ (quickly).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Complete the sentences with *as* + adverb + *as*.**

0 We all finished the exam quickly. I finished the exam *as quickly as* my friends.

1 I arrived home late, but my brother arrived home later. I didn't arrive home _____ my brother.

2 My best friend speaks more quietly than me. I don't speak _____ my best friend.

3 My parents eat very slowly. My dad eats _____ my mum.

4 William watches TV more often than his sister. William's sister doesn't watch TV _____ William.

5 My cousin is the best guitar player in my school. Nobody plays it _____ him.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Write the correct form of the adverb for the adjective in brackets.

1. Laura often makes mistakes because she always does her homework very _____ (quick).
2. Hans speaks _____ (fast) in our class.
3. You speak English much _____ (good) than me.
4. Please can you speak _____ (slow)? I didn't understand you before.
5. None of us did well in the exam, but I did _____ (bad)!
6. I think I work _____ (hard) in English lessons than I do in science.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

1 You speak English really good.
2 I made friends much easier at my new school.
3 Drama classes helped me speak clearer and better.
4 Catch this bus and you can get more quickly home.
5 My brother likes best the music class.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR Comparative and superlative adverbs

1 **Read the situations. Are sentences 1–8 right (✓) or wrong (✗)?**

Ben speaks more quickly than Greg. Ronan speaks the most quickly.

1 Ronan speaks more slowly than Greg. _____

2 Greg speaks the slowest. _____

In the basketball match, Reeta played better than Sarah. Kiera played the best.

3 Reeta played worse than Kiera. _____

4 Reeta played the worst. _____

Nick learns maths more slowly than David. Martin learns maths the most quickly.

5 Martin learns maths more easily than Nick. _____

6 Nick learns maths the most easily. _____

Izzie and Maria did their homework very quickly on the school bus. Paloma did hers more slowly at home.

7 Izzie did her homework more carefully than Maria. _____

8 Paloma did her homework the most carefully. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

1 Mrs Black speaks _____ than the other teachers. (quiet)
2 Toni plays volleyball _____ of all the players on our team. (well)
3 Chris runs _____ than Sam. (quick)
4 Nobody did well in the history exam, but I did _____ of all. (bad)
5 Jim, Norman and Ian worked together on a group project, but Norman worked _____ in the group. (hard)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 Complete the sentences with *more* or *most*.

1. We can all sing in my family, but my brother can sing the _____ beautifully of all of us.
2. Mr Sanchez explains things _____ carefully than Mr Wright. I prefer Mr Sanchez!
3. My brother learns languages _____ easily than I do. He can speak English, French and Russian.
4. Sara speaks the _____ quickly of all the people in the class. I never understand what she says!
5. For me, maths is the _____ difficult subject at school. I have to do lots of extra practice to pass the exams.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1 more / Jacob / the meal / quickly / his friends / finished / than

.....

2 carefully / Davina / her name / most / wrote / the

.....

3 works / than / Louis / the other art students / harder

.....

4 the / sleeps / worst in her family / always / Marta

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 **Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.**

1. I speak German *better* / *well* than my brother.
2. Every day at the college you learn lots of words in English, and this helps you to speak English more *easy* / *easily*.
3. Today is my birthday. Everyone gave me presents. The present I *like the best* / *best like* is the computer my parents gave me.
4. My father drives more *careful* / *carefully* than my uncle.
5. Our Spanish teacher explains things *clearer* / *more clearly* than our French teacher.

LIVEWORKSHEETS