

## THE RULES OF COMPARISONS IN ENGLISH

The first thing you need to be clear about is that in English adjectives have three different forms or degrees: **positive**, **comparative** and **superlative**.

**Positive:** quality in its simplest degree. Fast, tall, strong ...

**Comparative:** the quality in a degree superior to another. Faster, taller, stronger... There are also other grammatical ways to make comparisons of equality and inferiority (which we explain below).

**Superlative:** the quality in a degree superior to all others. The fastest, the tallest, the strongest ... It is very important to remember that we always have to use the definite article **THE**.

Simple right? Let's see what the three types of comparison are:

**Of superiority:** adjective in comparative form + than. For example: Maria runs faster than Mario.

**Equality:** as + adjective in a positive degree + as. Example: I am as tall as Berta.

**Of inferiority:** not as + adjective in positive degree + as or less + adjective in positive degree + than. Examples: Mario is not as fast as Maria, Marta's room is less clean than Angela's

And finally, you have to remember that there are a series of rules for the formation of comparative and superlative adjectives, depending on their number of syllables.

## Exercise to practice comparisons in English

And to finish, we are going to practice what we have just reviewed with an exercise. The challenge is to find the mistakes in the sentences and correct them.

The Saint Bernard is taller as the German Shepherd.	
It's more better for a dog to live in the country than in the city.	
The Chihuahua is the most short dog of all.	
I like driving in the summer much more better than driving in the winter.	
His cat had much bigger eyes than my Chihuahua.	
The sheepdog is much more heavier than the Cocker Spaniel.	
The Saint Bernard is the much heaviest dog in the world.	

### Activities: Use the correct one:

**OLD** / My mother is \_\_\_\_\_ than my father.

**FUNNY** / What is \_\_\_\_\_ movie you have ever seen?

**BAD** / That movie was bad, but it wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ I have ever  
seen.

**LONG** / Rachel's hair is not as \_\_\_\_\_ as Sarah's.

**DIFFICULT** / Yesterday's exam was \_\_\_\_\_ than the one last  
month.

**FAST** / Peter is as \_\_\_\_\_ as Alex.

**BEAUTIFUL** / I think Mary is \_\_\_\_\_ woman I have ever seen.

**BIG** / Her room is only a little bit \_\_\_\_\_ than mine.

**HAPPY** / He is \_\_\_\_\_ when he is playing football.

**FAR** / Michael's house is \_\_\_\_\_ from the train than Betty's.

## Evaluation

**Read the following text:**

### **What is a Consumer Society?**

A consumer is a person who buys things, and a consumer society is a society that encourages people to buy and use goods.<sup>1</sup> Some people think that a consumer society provides people with better lives. People in consumer societies tend to live more comfortably. They eat a wider variety of food. They go to restaurants more often. They also buy a lot of products, maybe more than they need. Products such as TVs, cell phones, and computers used to be luxuries. Today people can buy these things more easily than ever before. The market for these goods is growing faster all the time. Consumer societies encourage people to buy bigger and better products. For example, "smarter" phones come out every year. In a consumer society, people are often buying newer and more advanced products. This creates a lot of waste. Nowadays, many people are thinking more seriously about the effects of consumer societies on the environment, and they are trying to become more responsible consumers.

**Now that you finished the reading please put in the box below all the superlatives and comparatives that you found.**

## References

Los secretos de las comparaciones en ingles, taken from:

<https://whatsup.es/blog/los-secretos-de-las-comparaciones-en-ingles>

Ejercicios de comparativos y superlativos en ingles, taken from:

<https://www.curso-ingles.com/practicar/ejercicios/comparatives-and-superlatives>

Comparative and superlatives, taken from

[https://eltngl.com/assets/downloads/grex\\_pro0000000538/grex2\\_su8.pdf](https://eltngl.com/assets/downloads/grex_pro0000000538/grex2_su8.pdf)