Comparison of adjectives

1. Comparison with *-er/-est*

clean → cleaner → (the) cleanest

We use *-er/-est* with the following adjectives:

1.1. Adjectives with one syllable

positive	comparative	superlative
clean	cleaner	cleanest
new	newer	newest
cheap	cheaper	cheapest

1.2. Adjectives with two syllables and the following endings:

1.2.1. Adjectives with two syllables, ending in *-y*

positive	comparative	superlative
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest
easy	easier	easiest
happy	happier	happiest
pretty	prettier	prettiest

1.2.2. Adjectives with two syllables, ending in *-er*

positive	comparative	superlative
clever	cleverer	cleverest

1.2.3. Adjectives with two syllables, ending in *-le*

positive	comparative	superlative
simple	simpler	simplest

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1.3. Spelling of the adjectives using the endings *-er/-est*

positive	comparative	superlative	comment
large	larger	largest	leave out the silent *-e*
big	bigger	biggest	**Double** the **consonant** after **short vowel**
sad	sadder	saddest	
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest	Change *-y* to *-i* (consonant before *-y*)
shy	shyer	shyest	Here *-y* is not changed to *-i*. (although consonant before *-y*)

2. Comparison with *more – most*

all adjectives with **more than one syllable**

positive	comparative	superlative
difficult	**more** difficult	(the) **most** difficult

3. Irregular adjectives

positive	comparative	superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
much	more	most
many	more	most
little	less	least
small	smaller	smallest

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Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
1. tall		
2. cheap		
3. expensive		
4. good		
5. lazy		
6. pretty		
7. beautiful		
8. difficult		
9. boring		
10. shy		

Complete the following sentences with the correct *comparative* form of the words listed below.

bad important crowded good high heavy convenient difficult cheap expensive quiet easy thin healthy dangerous cold

1. In Canada, January is _____ than March.
2. I think that good health is _____ than money.
3. I can't carry my suitcase. It's much _____ than yours.
4. I can afford to buy a new bike but not a new car. A car is _____ than a bike.
5. You look _____ than the last time I saw you. Have you lost weight?
6. I couldn't get a seat in the restaurant. It was _____ than usual.
7. Mountains are _____ than hills.
8. He got a very good mark on his exam. The exam was _____ than he had expected.
9. You should go to the doctor. Your cold is _____ than it was a few days ago.
10. There is a lot of crime in the big cities. They are _____ than the small town where I live.

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Complete the following sentences with the correct *superlative* form of the words listed below.

funny high delicious easy cold boring lucky smart dirty rich valuable bad large cheap long scary

1. Yesterday was _____ day of the year. I almost froze to death walking home from school!
2. That was _____ movie I've ever seen. I almost walked out in the middle.
3. Please give me your recipe. That is _____ cake I've ever eaten.
4. Jerry is _____ student in our class. He gets the top grades in every course.
5. Bob told _____ story last night. I couldn't stop laughing.
6. Whales are _____ animals in the world.
7. The Nile is _____ river in the world.
8. Marie is _____ person I know. She has won the lottery four times!
9. He is _____ speaker I have ever heard. Half the audience fell asleep during his speech.
10. Mount Everest is _____ mountain in the world.

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