

Comparison of adjectives

1. Comparison with -er/-est

clean → clean**er** → (the) clean**est**

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

1.1. Adjectives with one syllable

positive	comparative	superlative
clean	clean er	clean est
new	new er	new est
cheap	cheap er	cheap est

1.2. Adjectives with two syllables and the following endings:

1.2.1. Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -y

positive	comparative	superlative
dirty	dirt ier	dirt iest
easy	eas ier	eas iest
happy	happ ier	happ iest
pretty	prett ier	prett iest

1.2.2. Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -er

positive	comparative	superlative
clever	clever er	clever est

1.2.3. Adjectives with two syllables, ending in -le

positive	comparative	superlative
simple	simpl er	simpl est

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

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.

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.