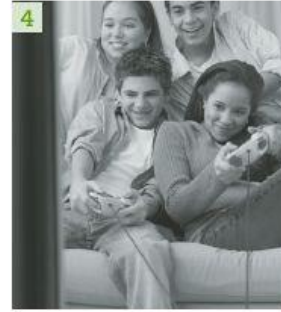
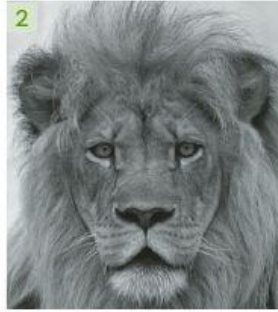


7

Adjectives

Comparative and superlative adjectives; position; order; adjectives ending in *-ing* and *-ed*

A Context listening



1 You are going to hear some advertisements. Before you listen, look at the photos and guess what will be advertised.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

2 10 Listen and check if you were right.

3 10 Listen to the advertisements again and write the words which describe these people and things. Stop the recording when you need to.

- 1 The sort of person you can become: _____
- 2 The lions and monkeys: _____
- 3 The way you feel before phoning The Sparklers: _____
- 4 The variety of games: _____

4 10 Listen again and fill in the gaps with the words that describe these people and things. Stop the recording when you need to.

- 1 professional advisers _____ route _____ welcome _____ facilities
- 2 _____ day out _____ wildlife park _____ brochure
_____ offers
- 3 _____ carpets _____ sinks and surfaces _____ finger marks
_____ prices
- 4 _____ savings _____ road races and fantasy lands _____ graphics
_____ battles

B Grammar

1 Comparative and superlative adjectives

Adjectives are words which describe nouns (things and people). ➤ Compare with adverbs in Unit 8.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
one syllable <i>strong</i> <i>great</i>	add -er <i>stronger</i>	add -est <i>the strongest</i>
	<i>You can become stronger at Transformers Fitness Centre.</i> <i>We've got the greatest variety of games ever!</i>	
two syllables, ending in -y <i>tidy</i> <i>funny</i>	drop -y and add -ier <i>tidier</i>	drop -y and add -iest <i>the tidiest</i>
	<i>Their flat is tidier than ours.</i> <i>They're the funniest monkeys you've ever seen.</i>	
two/three/four syllables <i>famous</i> <i>beautiful</i> <i>self-confident</i>	more + adjective <i>more self-confident</i>	the most + adjective <i>the most self-confident</i>
	<i>You can become a more self-confident person.</i> <i>He is the most famous actor in the film.</i>	

A few two-syllable adjectives (e.g. *quiet, pleasant, common, polite*) sometimes also use -er or -est:

*It's **quieter** than any garden I've visited before.*

Two-syllable adjectives ending in -ow and -er can usually add -er or -est:

clever → cleverer narrow → the narrowest

Two-syllable adjectives ending in -le usually add -r or -st:

simple → simpler → the simplest

Most one-syllable adjectives ending in one vowel + -b, -d, -g, -n, -p or -t double the last letter before adding -er or -est:

big → bigger sad → the saddest

A few adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms:

good → better → best bad → worse → worst far → farther/further → farthest/furthest

2 Comparative structures

We can use comparative structures to say that:

- things are more:
*Our prices are **better than** those of our rivals.*
*We have a **more exciting** range of games **than** you'll see anywhere else.*
- things are less:
*Pre-owned games usually aren't **as/so expensive as** new ones.*
*The games in the sale are much **less expensive than** usual.*
- or things are equal:
*Fantasy games are **as popular as** football games with our customers.*

7 Adjectives

3 Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed

Some common adjectives are formed from verbs and have both -ing and -ed forms.

We use the -ed form to describe our feelings:

*I'm **tired**.* (= a description of how I feel: I've used up all my energy so I need a rest)

We use the -ing form to describe the things which make us feel like this:

*This work is **tiring**.* (= a description of the work: it takes a lot of energy to do it)

Compare these sentences:



<i>It's a boring film.</i> (= there's no action in it)	<i>The visitors are bored.</i> (= they have nothing to do)
<i>We had a relaxing holiday.</i> (= the atmosphere was restful)	<i>Good driving instructors always have a relaxed manner.</i> (= they don't seem nervous)
<i>That was a very satisfying meal.</i> (= there was plenty to eat)	<i>The airline has many satisfied customers.</i> (= the customers feel happy)

4 Adjective position

Adjectives in English usually go in front of the word they describe:

*We visited an **old** house. We saw some **beautiful** paintings and some **elegant** furniture.*

Adjectives can also follow verbs such as *be*, *get*, *become*, *look*, *seem*, *appear*, *sound*, *taste*, *smell* and *feel*:

*Everything seemed **pleasant** when we started. The flowers smelt **beautiful** and the gardens looked **wonderful**. But the weather got very **hot** and we all felt **exhausted** by the end of the day.*

There are many nouns in English which are used as adjectives:

*a **diamond** ring a **library** book a **seaside** hotel **folk** music **strawberry** jam*

5 Adjective order

When we use more than one adjective, we usually put them in a certain order. We say:

*a **strange old wooden** chair* (not *a ~~strange old wooden~~ chair*)

We usually begin with adjectives which give an opinion or general impression:

*a **dangerous old** car a **delicate oval** tray a **valuable silver** spoon*

Adjectives giving factual information usually follow the opinion/impression adjective and go in this order:

	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose	
an	enormous	old		red				car
a	small		oval		French			mirror
an		antique				silver	soup	spoon

Two colour adjectives are separated by *and*:

*a **black and white** photograph*

When we put more than one adjective after a verb, we use *and* before the last one:

*The day was **hot and tiring**.*

*Lord Byron was described as **mad, bad and dangerous** to know.*

C Grammar exercises

1 Complete this email with the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives and any other words (e.g. *the, as, so, than*) that are needed.

Hi Lily

Well, we've moved at last! When we first got here, the house seemed **(1)** larger (*large*) than we remembered, because it was empty, but now it's got our furniture in it, it doesn't feel **(2)** (*spacious*) before. We've got to do some decorating, and that will be **(3)** (*expensive*) we expected because the walls are in a **(4)** (*bad*) condition than we thought. But we'll manage somehow, and soon we'll have **(5)** (*smart*) house in the town. And if your Uncle Bob has his way, we'll have **(6)** (*lovely*) garden as well. We'll also be **(7)** (*poor*) and **(8)** (*exhausted*) householders in the country, but never mind. We still think moving here is **(9)** (*good*) thing we've done for years. We can't imagine now why we didn't do it when we were **(10)** (*young*).

Come and see us soon. Catch a train if you can, because it's almost **(11)** (*cheap*) the bus, and the railway station is **(12)** (*near*) our end of town.

Love, Auntie Rosie

2 Choose the correct adjectives.

- 1 James told us some *fascinating* / *fascinated* stories about the music business.
- 2 Why are you looking so *depressing* / *depressed*? What's wrong?
- 3 Sarah's got an *amazing* / *amazed* collection of computer games.
- 4 Felix has this really *annoying* / *annoyed* habit of reading my emails.
- 5 The *boring* / *bored* students started causing trouble in class.
- 6 I watched the show for a while, but it wasn't really *interesting* / *interested*, so I left.
- 7 The food in this canteen is absolutely *disgusting* / *disgusted*.
- 8 The astronaut gave a *relaxing* / *relaxed* wave and entered the space capsule.

3  Correct the mistake in each of the following sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

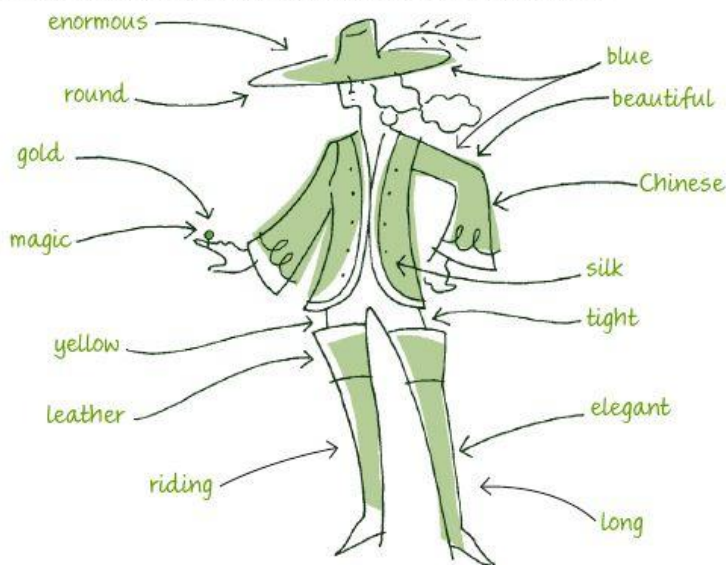
- 1 I would like to join the club as I have been ~~interesting~~ in local history for a long time. interested
- 2 Young people find it bored to visit art galleries at the weekend.
- 3 The hotel is situated in a place that is as beautiful than any other place in the country.
- 4 It is easier for me to do my studies now that I have bought a computer.
- 5 It's more quicker to learn a language if you study in that country.
- 6 I think that animals are more safe in zoos than in other places.
- 7 If we plant more trees, the city will be greener and pleasanter.
- 8 She feels even more worse now that everybody knows about her bad news.

7 Adjectives

4 Choose the correct sentence from each pair.

- 1 a That was the worse film I've ever seen!
b That was the worst film I've ever seen! ✓
- 2 a Michael's got a fantastic new leather jacket.
b Michael's got a leather new fantastic jacket.
- 3 a I didn't eat any bread because I thought it looked as stale.
b I didn't eat any bread because I thought it looked stale.
- 4 a Our last holiday wasn't so enjoyable than this one.
b Our last holiday wasn't so enjoyable as this one.
- 5 a The frightening teenagers locked the door and called the police.
b The frightened teenagers locked the door and called the police.
- 6 a Lucia should catch an earlier train if she wants to get to London by five.
b Lucia should catch a more earlier train if she wants to get to London by five.
- 7 a Our hockey team plays in blue white striped shirts.
b Our hockey team plays in blue and white striped shirts.
- 8 a I think your new dress looks beautiful.
b I think your new dress looks beautifully.

5 Look at this designer's sketch of a costume for a film and complete the notes. Fill in the gaps with adjectives for each part of the costume.



- 1 an enormous round blue hat
- 2 a silk shirt
- 3 a magic ring
- 4 a pair of riding boots
- 5 a pair of long trousers