

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES: GENERAL REVIEW

comparative and superlative forms

adjectives

- Comparative adjectives compare two people or things.
*My sister is **taller than** my mother.*
*Horse-riding is a **more challenging** activity **than** riding a bike.*
- Superlative adjectives compare one person or thing in a group with others in the same group.
*It was **the wettest** day we'd had.*
- After superlatives, we use *in* before singular nouns and *of* before plural nouns.
*Wendy's **the best** student **in** her class.*
*Wendy's **the best of** all the students.*
- Irregular adjectives include: *little – less – the least* and *much/many – more – the most*.

adverbs

Adverbs follow the same general rules as adjectives.

- We use *more/less + adverb (+ than)* to form the comparative.
*Sam runs **more quickly than** I do.*
- We use *the most/the least* to form the superlative of most adverbs ending in *-ly*.
*Kim did her project **the most carefully** of all her friends.*
- Some short adverbs have the same comparative and superlative form as adjectives: *early, far, fast, hard, high, late, long, low, near, soon, well, badly*.
*The journey took **longer than** we expected.*

Here are some irregular adverbs:

adverb	comparative	superlative
well	better (than)	
badly	worse (than)	
far		the farthest/the furthest
little	less (than)	
(not) much/a lot	more (than)	the most

other comparative structures

- We use *(not) as ... as* with adjectives and adverbs to compare equal things.
*My mobile phone **isn't as good as** hers.*
- We can use adverbs of degree to make comparisons of adjectives and adverbs stronger (e.g. *much, a lot, far*) or weaker (e.g. *a bit, a little, slightly*).
*Today's news is **much more interesting** than usual.*
- We use *too* and *(not) enough (+ to-infinitive)* with adjectives and adverbs.
*It's **too cold and windy** today **to go out** in the boat.*
- We can also make comparisons between clauses and phrases.
*It's **more difficult to be** funny in a foreign language **than it is** in your own language.*

In case you need it, here you have 2 videos about this topic that you can watch to help you revise the basic theory.

About ADJECTIVES:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwLaiF_bVpI

About ADVERBS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pO-tiEmcWUQ>



Complete this chart
with the missing form
of the adverbs!

B Select TRUE or FALSE:

1. To compare two things, we add -er to many adjectives.
2. We add -est to make the superlative form of all adjectives.
3. We never change the spelling of the adjective before adding -er / -est.
4. We often use "than" after a comparative but we always use "the" before a superlative form.
5. We can also compare the way in which somebody does something by using a comparative adverb.
6. With longer adjectives, we use "more" + adjective or "most" + adjective.
7. There are a lot of irregular comparatives and superlatives.
8. In the sentence "Tom reads better than I do", better is in adjective.

C Read carefully and complete with

	Adjective	Comparative form	Superlative form
Most short adjectives take -er for the comparative and -est for the superlative as in fast-faster-fastest	old hard	taller (than) nicer (than)	the / the quickest the largest
One-syllable adjectives ending in -e only add -r or -st as in late-later-latest			
One-syllable adjectives ending in CONSONANT + VOWEL + CONSONANT double the last consonant as in big-bigger-biggest . (This rule doesn't apply for words ending in -W as in new-newer-newest.)	thin	hotter (than)	the wettest
Two-syllable adjectives ending in CONSONANT + Y elide the -y and add -ier or -iest as in happy-happier-happiest	funny easy		
The rest of the two-syllable adjectives (and three-syllable onwards) are preceded by MORE or MOST as in modern - more modern - most modern	famous expensive		
Irregular adjectives	good bad far little much/many	worse (than) more (than)	the best the least

D Read the following sentences carefully. Is the word in bold an adjective or an adverb?

1. Tom is the **fastest** runner.
2. My car is **faster** than your car.
3. Mary is as **beautiful** as Sophia.
4. He doesn't cook as **well** as I do.
5. The teacher speaks too **fast** for me to understand what she says.
6. Susan is **old** enough to decide by herself.
7. Mark runs **faster** than Theo.
8. Elijah is working **harder** because he wants to get a promotion.