

Comparative and superlative forms & adjectives

COMPARATIVES

- How do we form comparative statements? Study the grammar reference chart below.

Adjectives with one syllable: add '-er' or '-r' + 'than'		
cold	colder than	"In Canada, winter is colder than summer."
nice	nicer than	"Chocolate ice-cream is nicer than strawberry ice-cream."
Adjectives with two or more syllables: add 'more' + 'than'		
boring	more boring than	"I think golf is more boring than baseball."
expensive	more expensive than	"This restaurant is more expensive than that restaurant."
Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y': change '-y' to '-i' and add '-er' + 'than'		
early	earlier than	"He arrived at school earlier than I did."
happy	happier than	"John looks happier than David."
Adjectives that end with a single vowel and a consonant: double the final letter before adding 'than'		
big	bigger than	"Russia is bigger than Canada."
hot	hotter than	"In my country, August is hotter than January."

NOTE: When a comparative statement is used to answer a question, it is not necessary to use 'than' if only one person, place or thing is mentioned.

Example:
(A) Which month is **hotter**, January or August?
(B) August is **hotter**.

Irregular Comparative Adjectives:
good - **better than**
bad - **worse than**
far - **farther than / further than**

SUPERLATIVES

- How do we form superlative statements? Study the grammar reference chart below.

Adjectives with one syllable: add 'the' + '-est' or '-st'		
cold	the coldest	"January is often the coldest winter month."
nice	the nicest	"She is the nicest person I know."
Adjectives with two or more syllables: add 'the' + 'most'		
boring	the most boring	"It's the most boring movie at the cinema."
expensive	the most expensive	"We ate at the most expensive restaurant in town."
Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y': change '-y' to '-i' and add 'the'		
early	the earliest	"He was the earliest person to arrive."
happy	the happiest	"It was the happiest time of my life."
Adjectives that end with a vowel and a consonant: double the final letter before adding 'the' + '-est'		
big	the biggest	"Russia is the biggest country in the world."
hot	the hottest	"August is usually the hottest summer month."
Adjectives that are irregular:		
good	the best	"She is the best student in our class."
bad	the worst	"It was the worst storm in many years."
far	the farthest / the furthest	"He lives the farthest/furthest from my home."

Special cases

happy - **happier**
gentle - **gentler** - **more gentle**
narrow - **narrower** - **more narrow**
quiet - **quieter** - **more quiet**
simple - **simpler** - **more simple**

For some compound adjectives, you change the first part of the compound.

Good-looking **better**-looking **the best**-looking
Bad-tempered **worse**-tempered **the worst**-tempered
Long-lasting **longer**-lasting **the longest**-lasting

1) Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives.

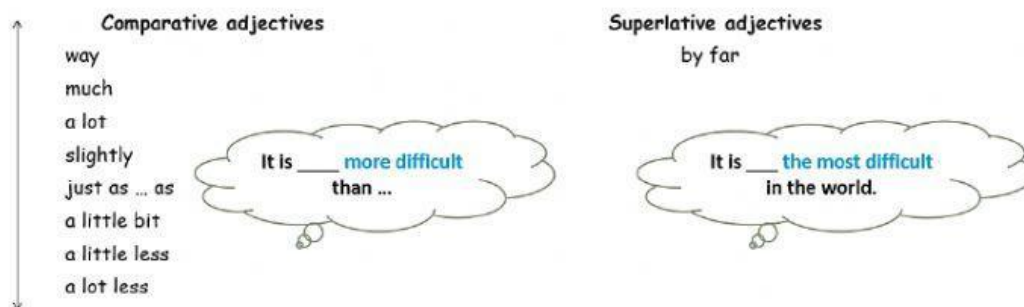
Adjective	Comparative form	Superlative form
cold	colder	the coldest
Fat		
Happy		
high		
lucky		
relaxed		
athletic	more athletic	the most athletic
badly-dressed		
big		

extreme		
gentle		
good-looking		
healthy		
well-paid		
intelligent		

2) Put the adjectives in parenthesis into the comparative and superlative form. Insert **THAN** and **THE** where necessary.

- a My friends are funnier than (funny) me.
- b I'm _____ (lucky) person that I know.
- c I feel _____ (relaxed) today than yesterday.
- d My kitchen is _____ (cold) place in the house.
- e My sister is _____ (pretty) girl in the world.
- f I find history _____ (interesting) sports.
- g _____ (sad) movie I've ever seen is *The Fault in Our Stars*.
- h I'm usually _____ (happy) my best friend.

Comparative and superlative adjectives



Mandarin is **way** more difficult than English.
USA is **way** larger than Ecuador.

Mandarin is **by far** the most difficult language.
Russia is **by far** the largest country in the world.

3) Choose the correct alternative.

- a Scuba diving in the Bahamas was **by far** / **slightly** the most exciting thing I've ever done.
- b It was **by far** / **much** easier than I thought.
- c The Bahamas are **a lot** / **just as** good for diving as the Red Sea.
- d The hotels are **by far** / **slightly** more expensive than in my country.
- e The weather is **a lot** / **by far** hotter in the summer.
- f My last vacation wasn't **a bit** / **nearly** as nice as this.

4) Write comparative sentences using the words in parenthesis.

- a) Skydiving / extreme / ping pong (much)

- Skydiving is much more extreme than ping pong.*
- b) Soccer players / well-paid / squash players (way)
 - c) A basketball / big / a volleyball / (a little bit)
 - d) Tennis / popular / judo (slightly)
 - e) Cyclists / athletic / golfers (much)
 - f) Surfers / good-looking / boxers (a lot)

Grammar: negative comparisons

Use **not as... as** to make negative comparisons.

You can use **nearly** or **quite** to modify negative comparisons.

Gold **isn't nearly as exciting as** motor racing.

A soccer field **isn't quite as big as** a rugby field.

Tennis **isn't nearly as popular as** soccer.

5) Rewrite the sentences, beginning with words given.

- a) Tennis is more popular than Badminton.
Badminton isn't as popular as tennis.
- b) Bungee jumping isn't as difficult as kite surfing.
Kite surfing is
- c) La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires is not as big as the Maracana Stadium in Rio.
The Maracana Stadium in Rio is
- d) The Red Sox are better than the Cubs.
The Cubs aren't
- e) Baseball isn't nearly as exciting as soccer.
Soccer is a lot
- f) Snowboarding is much more fashionable than fishing.
Fishing isn't
- g) Horseback riding isn't as dangerous as boxing.
Boxing is

6) Rewrite the sentences with NEARLY or QUITE so they have the same meaning.

- a) *Skydiving is much more extreme than ping pong*
→ *Ping pong isn't nearly as extreme as skydiving.*
- b) Soccer players are way better-paid than squash players.
- c) A basketball is a little bit bigger than a volleyball.
- d) Tennis is slightly more popular than judo
- e) Cyclists are much more athletic than golfers.
- f) Surfers are a lot better-looking than boxers.