California Prep international School
Degrees of comparison



A big ball.



A small ball.

When we compare <u>two nouns</u>: **comparative**.
When we compare <u>three or more nouns</u>: **superlative**.

FORMATION

!! RULES !!	*Positive*	*Comparative*	*Superlative*
Very short words (one syllable) ➔ + ER ➔ + EST	Tall Small Old	Tall**er** Small**er** Old**er**	Tall**est** Small**est** Old**est**
Short words (two syllables): Ending in –y, -ow, -er, -le ➔ + ER ➔ + EST	Heavy Clever Narrow	Heavier Cleverer Narrower	Heaviest Cleverest Narrowest
Short words (two syllables): NOT ending in –y, -ow, -er, -le ➔ MORE ➔ MOST	Tired Awful Famous	More tired More awful More famous	Most tired Most awful Most famous
Long words (three or more syllables) ➔ MORE ➔ MOST	Beautiful Expensive Horrible	More beautiful More expensive More horrible	Most beautiful Most expensive Most horrible

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SPELLING

Spelling **RULES !!**	The three degrees		
	positive	comparative	superlative
Ending in consonant after short vowel:	Big	Bigger	Biggest
Ending in –e:	Large	Larger	Largest
Ending in consonant + y:	Happy	Happier	Happiest
Ending in vowel + Y:	Grey	Greyer	Greyest

!!! EXCEPTIONS !!!

positive	***Comparative***	***Superlative***
Good	better	best
Bad	worse	worst
Much/many	more	most
Little	Less	Least

Exercise 1: Complete the grid.

positive	**comparative**	**superlative**
Safe		
	larger	
Pretty		
	sadder	
Horrible		
	luckier	
		ugliest
wonderful		
	heavier	
tired		
colourful		
		Most dangerous
	More expensive	
	nicer	
		oldest

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Exercise 2: write sentences. Use the adjectives in brackets.

1) Russia/Belgium (larger than)

.....

2) Rome/ London (warmer than)

.....

3) Taxis/ buses (expensive than)

.....

4) Driving/ flying (dangerous than)

.....

5) Britney Spears/ I (famous than)

.....

Exercise 3: write the correct form of the adjective for each sentence.

When I was younger I was a .....swimmer than anyone else in my school. (good)

The peanut-butter powered computer was ..... than my science fair project. (rediculous)



Todd has a ..... computer than I do. (new)

I saw the .....magic trick today. (amazing)

Michelle's shirt is ..... than anyone else's here. (green)

The dining room was .....than we thought it would be. (elegant)

I think algebra is the .....class I've ever taken. (hard)

Research has shown that we have the .....pizza in town. (good)

This lemonade is .....than any soda pop. (tasty)

The sequel was much .....than the original movie was. (interesting)

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Structure.

Compare 2 things, who are the same → postitive degree Example: This ball is **as big as** the other ball.

Compare two things with each other → comparative degree Example: This ball is **bigger than** the other ball.

Compare 3 or more things → superlative degree. Example: This ball is **the biggest of** them all. Russia is **the biggest** country **in** the World.



Bart is young



Lisa is younger



Maggie is the youngest.

Exercise 4: Complete each sentence so that it means the same as the one above. Use the positive degree.

→ Sweden is bigger than Belgium.
Belgium isn't *as big as* Sweden.

1. The other students learn more quickly than me.

   I don't learn .....the other students.

2. You're very angry and I'm very angry also.

   I'm .....you.

3. The Seats at the front are more expensive than the Seats at the back.

   The Seats at the back aren't .....the Seats at the front.

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4. Central Park in New York is bigger than Hyde Park in London.

   Hyde Park in London isn't .....Central Park in New York.

5. Her last film is very good and her new film is also very good.

   Her last film is .....her last film.

Exercise 5: Complete the sentences. Use the comparative.

1. (big) My house is ..... yours.
2. (beautiful) This flower is .....that one.
3. (long) Non-smokers usually live ..... smokers.
4. (good) A holiday by the sea is .....a holiday in the mountains.
5. (expensive) It is strange but often a coke is.....a beer.
6. (bad) The weather this summer is even .....last summer.
7. (smart) I'm .....my brother.
8. (long) Tortoises live .....cats.
9. (difficult) I think mathematics is .....English.
10. (warm) The summer is .....the winter.

Exercise 6: Make comparative sentences.

1. Tom – tall – Jerry

   .....

2. Europe – small – Asia

   .....

3. Vegetables – good – sweets

   .....

4. English classes – interesting – Chemistry

   .....

5. Gold – precious – silver

   .....

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Exercise 7: Put the words in the right order.

➔ (The world – Antarctica – coldest – is – place – the – in)

Antarctica is the coldest place in the world.

1. (city – the – Manchester – in England – is – the – friendliest)

   .....

2. (in New York – expensive – restaurant – The Manhattan – the – is – most)

   .....

3. (is - river – the world – the – The Nile – longest – in)

   .....

4. (town – most – in Spain – Granada – beautiful – is – the)

   .....

5. (painting – The Mona Lisa – the – famous – in – is – most – the – the world)

   .....

Exercise 8: Look at the information in the box about three boats and complete the sentences. Use the superlative.

Boats	*Length*	*Top speed*	*Price*
Queen Anne	14 metres	35 knots	£ 9 000
Red Devil	6 metres	72 knots	£ 23 000
Jolly Jim	4 metres	28 knots	£ 6 000

➔ (long) *The Queen Anne is the longest* boat.

1. (short) .....boat.
2. (fast) .....boat.
3. (slow) .....boat.
4. (expensive) .....boat.
5. (cheap) .....boat.

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