

Comparison of Adjectives

Input:

Comparison of adjectives is called „Steigerung der Adjektive“ in German. It allows us to compare the qualities of something when speaking or writing.

For comparisons there are three forms of the adjective:

- the **positive**, the form that you find in the dictionary (e.g. blue, genuine, boring, expensive ...)
- the **comparative** (e.g. bluer, more genuine, more boring, more expensive ...)
- the **superlative** (e.g. (the) bluest, (the) most genuine, (the) most boring, (the) most expensive ...)

Furthermore, there are two different ways of comparing things:

1. Stating that something is the same as something else:
Tom is **as tall as** Julie.

Or

2. Stating that they are different:
July is **shorter than** her sister.

Please, note that in (1) the comparison uses the basic form of the adjective, i.e. the positive form and “as”, while in (2) the comparative is used with “than”.

The use of the superlative is the same as in German.

There are two different forms of comparing adjectives, as you may have realized already in the examples: the **Germanic style** using the suffixes **-er** and **-est** and the Romanic style using the adverbs more and most to form comparative and superlative forms.

Please, watch this little video in order to have somebody else add some input for a change (it is a certain Conrad van Dyke, obviously American, if you ask me).



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For which adjectives do you use the

Germanic comparison	Romanic comparison

Mr van Dyke is a bit vague about the two syllable adjectives here. So, let me jump in again:

All two syllable adjectives follow the Romanic comparison, unless they

- end in -y
- end in -er
- end in -le
- end in -ow
- or have the stress on the second syllable (really unusual! I only know *robust* and *compact*.)

Hotelfachschule Hamburg: Advanced English Course (Euro Level C1)

Angerstraße 4, D-22087 Hamburg
Tel.: +49-40-42859 3429, Fax: +49-40-42859-3128
e-Mail: hatje@hotelfachschule-hamburg.de
www.hotelfachschule-hamburg.de



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Exercises:

1. Please click on the following link to do a quizlet exercise on *Germanic* or *Romanic* comparisons of adjectives. You can use this to learn and practice. Please, select "Antworten mit Definition" in the options. https://quizlet.com/_5f8iqo

2. Please, again click on the link below and fulfil the task as given. This time you have to sort adjectives and other items into four categories.
<https://learningapps.org/watch?v=p5sq831nc18>

3. Fill in the gaps in the following text¹:
 - a) Her dress is (pretty) than mine.
 - b) Cheetahs are (fast) animals we can find.
 - c) Eating fruit and vegetables is (healthy) than eating hot dogs.
 - d) I like milk (good) than coffee.
 - e) China has (many) people than any other country in the world.
 - f) The blue whale is (heavy) animal in the world.
 - g) Which is (big), Portugal or Spain?
 - h) Travelling by plane is (comfortable) than travelling by car.
 - i) He is (untidy) person in class.
 - j) Buying things from plastic is (bad) than buying things from recycled paper.
 - k) The Nile is (long) river in the world.
 - l) In Mark's opinion History is (difficult) than Geography. However, it is (interesting)
 - m) Antarctica is one of (cold) places on Earth.
 - n) Greece is (hot) than England.
 - o) Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's (pretty) of them all?
 - p) Elvis Presley is one of (popular) rock singers ever.
 - q) Jenny is (tall) than Alice even though she is (young)
 - r) Switzerland is one of (rich) countries in the world.
 - s) People in Africa are the (poor) in the world.
 - t) Alexander the Great was a (good) leader than Xerxes.

Okay, enough of that, don't you agree?

Next, we will have a look at the comparison of adverbs.

Jens Hatje

¹ http://www.pi-schools.gr/books/dimotiko/english_e/math/s_84_94.pdf

