

Comparing with Adjectives

Reminder: an adjective is used to modify a noun. Adjectives add more detail to a sentence by telling us **what kind**, **which one**, or **how many**.

Adjectives are also used for comparison. There are three forms of adjectives: **absolute**, **comparative**, and **superlative**. The difference is one of degree.

An absolute adjective simply describes a noun.

Examples:

a **soft** blanket

a **spicy** meal

a **surprising** ending

A comparative adjective compares two or more things.

To form a comparative adjective, add **-er** to most words; for adjectives with two syllables that end with the letter "y", drop the "y" and add **-ier**; for adjectives with three or more syllables, add the word "more" before the absolute form of the adjective.

Examples:

That blanket is **softer** than mine.

The beef burrito is **spicier** than the chicken burrito.

The fourth season's finale of *Brooklyn Nine Nine* has a **more** surprising ending than the third one.

A superlative adjective indicates that something has the highest degree possible when it is compared to another thing.

To form a superlative adjective, add **-est** to most words; for adjectives with two syllables that end with the letter "y", drop the "y" and add **-iest**; for adjectives with three or more syllables, add the word "most" before the absolute form of the adjective.

Examples:

That is the **softest** blanket I have ever touched.

This is the **spiciest** meal I have ever eaten.

The Village had the **most** surprising ending I have ever seen.

A. Use the form indicated in parentheses to modify each adjective.

1. cold (absolute) _____
2. gorgeous (superlative) _____
3. short (absolute) _____
4. big (comparative) _____
5. bright (superlative) _____
6. messy (comparative) _____
7. disgusting (absolute) _____
8. coarse (comparative) _____
9. dark (superlative) _____
10. difficult (comparative) _____
11. shiny (superlative) _____
12. picturesque (absolute) _____
13. old (comparative) _____
14. magical (superlative) _____
15. fresh (comparative) _____

B. Use the correct form of each adjective in parentheses. Look at the context in the sentence to make your choice between absolute, comparative, and superlative.

1. This winter will be the (cold) _____ one on record.
2. Which of the two beds is (comfortable) _____?
3. Do you like (green) _____ tea?
4. Hermione is the (clever) _____ witch of her age.
5. Mme Berthiaume's class is (big) _____ than Miss Rich's.
6. Robert thinks that history is (interesting) _____ than science.