COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

Comparative adjectives say how two people, things or ideas are different. *Superlative adjectives* compare a person, thing or idea to all others.

Spelling of comparative and superlative adjectives

For one-syllable adjectives, add *-er* or *-est*. When the last letter of the word is *-e*, only add *-r* or *-st*.

fast → faster → the fastest
large → larger → the largest

For one-syllable adjectives which end in one vowel and one consonant, double the consonant and add *-er* or *-est*. Do not double the consonant *w*.

big → bigger → the biggest (but low → lower → the lowest)

For two-syllable adjectives ending in *-y*, remove the *-y* and add *-ier* or *-iest*.

scary → scarier → scariest

For almost all adjectives with two or more syllables, use *more / less* or *the most / the least* before the adjective.

serious → more/less serious → the most/least serious

Some adjectives are irregular in the comparative and superlative forms.

good → better → the best

subject	verb	comparative adjective	*than*	object
Taking a train	is	greener	than	driving.
Flying		scarier		taking a train.
Driving		more affordable		flying.

subject	verb	*the*	superlative adjective	object
Walking	is	the	greenest	form of transport.
Flying			scariest	
Taking a bus			most affordable	

We can use adverbials to modify comparative and superlative adjectives. Stress the adverbials when you speak.

This car is **a lot** nicer than mine.
Flying is **by far** the most expensive form of transport.

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6 Complete the sentences with the correct form (comparative or superlative) of the adjectives in brackets.

1 The _____ route to my office is not always the fastest, because there is often a lot of traffic. (direct)
2 I'm always _____ in a car than in a plane. (calm)
3 Using mobile phones while driving is the _____ driving safety issue. (serious)
4 Driving your own car is the _____ way to travel. (comfortable)
5 If you are in a hurry, it is often _____ to cycle than to drive a car. (fast)
6 Buying a monthly pass for public transport is _____ than paying for every trip. (affordable)
7 In many countries the _____ tip for a taxi driver is 20% of the fare. (appropriate)
8 Many people are scared of flying, but flying is a lot _____ than driving. (safe)

7 Make a list of the types of transport in a city you know. Then, write sentences comparing the types of transport. Use comparative or superlative adjectives and adverbials to modify the adjectives.

1 The underground is much faster than the bus.
2 Driving is definitely the most expensive type of transport.
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____

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