What are Superlatives and Comparatives?

Comparative adjectives are used to compare one noun to another. In this type, only two objects are compared. For example, someone might say that "the blue colour ball is brighter than the red one."

Superlative adjectives are used to compare three or more nouns. They are also used to compare one thing against the rest of a group. Also, these adjectives demonstrate a higher level of comparison among more than two objectives. For example, "She is the brightest student in the whole class."

	Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
One syllable	strong	stronger	strongest
Consonant + short vowel + consonant	big	bigger	biggest
Ends in -e	large	larger	largest
Ends in -y	happy	happier	happiest
Two syllables	gentle	gentler more gentle	gentlest more gentle
Three or more syllables	expensive	more expensive	most expensive
Irregular forms	good little	better less	best least

Formation of Comparative Adjectives

For a word ending with a consonant, we add 'er'
For example:

big → bigger

old → older

fast → faster

If an adjective ends with 'e', we add 'r'

For example, late → later

If the adjective ends in 'y', change the y to 'i'

For example,

happy → happier

easy → easier

Some more examples on adding 'more' before adjectives to make them comparison adjectives. Examples are:

- quiet → quieter/more quiet
- clever → cleverer/more clever
- narrow → narrower/more narrow
- simple → simpler/more simple
- beautiful → more beautiful

Formation of Superlative Adjectives

For a word ending with a consonant, we add 'est'

For example:

big → biggest

old → oldest

fast → fastest

If an adjective ends with 'e', we add 'st'

For example, late → latest

If the adjective ends in 'y', change the y to 'est'

For example:

Happy → Happiest

Easy → Easiest

Some more examples on adding 'most' before adjectives to make them superlative adjectives. Examples are:

- quiet → quietest
- clever → cleverest
- narrow → narrowest
- simple → simplest

Positive Adjective	Comparative Adjective	Superlative Adjective
Anger		
Small		
Pretty		
Broad		
Calm		
Curly		
Dirty		
Dull		
Fresh		
New		
Simple		
Quick		
Smart		
Old		
Long		
Rich		
Soft		
Hard		
Heavy		