● Comparatives and superlatives / so, such, enough, too

Comparative and superlative adjectives

	adjective	comparative	superlative
regular adjectives with one syllable	*black*	+ *-er* *blacker*	+ *-est* *blackest*
regular adjectives with one syllable (ending in vowel + consonant)	*thin*	double final letter + *-er* *thinner*	double final letter + *-est* *thinnest*
regular adjectives with two syllables (ending in *-y*)	*funny*	replace *-y* with *-ier* *funnier*	replace *-y* with *-iest* *funniest*
regular adjectives with two or more syllables	*intelligent*	*more / less* + adj *more intelligent*	*most / least* + adj *most intelligent*
irregular adjectives / quantifiers	*good* *bad* *far* *little* *much* *many*	*better* *worse* *farther / further* *less* *more* *more*	*best* *worst* *farthest / furthest* *least* *most* *most*

Use	Example
Comparative To compare things or people that are different	*The crime rate in this area is **higher** than in other parts of the country.*
Superlative To compare one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	*The robbery was **the biggest** in the bank's history.*

Watch out!

- Regular adjectives with two syllables can often also form the comparative and superlative like adjectives with one syllable.
  ✓ ***clever, cleverer, cleverest***
- Adjectives with one syllable that end in *-e* add *-r* and *-st*.
  ✓ ***white, whiter, whitest***
- Remember that comparative forms are often followed by *than*.
  ✓ *Crime is a much **bigger** problem in this country **than** in many other countries.*
- Remember that superlative forms are often preceded by *the*.
  ✓ *Our local police force is **the best** in the country.*

Comparative and superlative adverbs

	adverb	comparative	superlative
regular adverbs	*easily*	*more / less* + adv *more easily*	*most / least* + adv *most easily*
irregular adverbs	*badly* *early* *far* *fast* *hard* *late* *often* *near* *soon* *well*	*worse* *earlier* *farther / further* *faster* *harder* *later* *more often* *nearer* *sooner* *better*	*worst* *earliest* *farthest / furthest* *fastest* *hardest* *latest* *most often* *nearest* *soonest* *best*

Use	Example
Comparative To compare actions that are different	*Lock your door **more carefully** next time and maybe you won't get burgled!*
Superlative To compare actions of one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	*Only the criminal who ran **fastest** managed to escape from the police.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

So

Form	*so* + adjective + *that* *so* + adverb + *that* *so* + *many/much* + noun + *that*

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action	*The burglar was **so** clever **that** no one could catch him.* *Jane took the money **so** quickly **that** no one saw her.* *There was **so** much money **that** the robber couldn't carry it all.*

Watch out!

- The word *that* is not usually necessary to introduce the second clause.
  - ✓ *The crime rate is **so** high people are very frightened.*
- The word *so* has a number of other uses. Try not to get confused between them.
  - ✓ *The crime rate is **so** high **that** people are very frightened.*
  - ✓ *I saw that burglar leaving the house, **so** I called the police.*

Such

Form	*such* + *a/an* + adjective + singular noun + *that* *such* + adjective + plural noun + *that* *such* + *a lot of* + noun + *that*

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action	*It was **such** a terrible crime **that** the man was sent to prison for life.* *The security guard had **such** good hearing **that** he heard the door open immediately.* *There is **such** a lot of crime here **that** the police can't cope.*

Enough

Form	*enough* + noun (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive) adjective + *enough* (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive) adverb + *enough* (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action where there is/isn't the right amount/number of something	*There aren't **enough** police officers on the streets to keep us safe.* *It wasn't dark **enough** for the burglar to start working.* *Did the police respond quickly **enough** to help?*

Watch out!

- A common mistake is to put *enough* before an adjective when the correct word is *quite* or *fairly*.
  - ✓ *It's **quite** / **fairly** dangerous around here so don't go out alone.*
  - ✗ ~~*It's **enough** dangerous around here so don't go out alone.*~~

Too

Form	*too* + adjective (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive) *too* + adverb (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive) *too* + *many/much* + noun (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)

Use	Example
To describe something that is more than necessary and which has a negative effect	*The young man was **too** young to go to prison.* *We arrived **too** late for the start of the trial.* *We send **too** many innocent people to prison.*

Watch out!

- We do not use *too* when we want to describe something we consider to be positive. Instead, we use *very*, *really* or *extremely*.
  - ✓ *You were **very** / **really** / **extremely** lucky not to get caught.*
  - ✗ ~~*You were **too** lucky not to get caught.*~~

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Complete using the comparative forms of the words in capitals.

1 Your brother is much ..... (**TALL**) than mine.
2 This island used to be much ..... (**GREEN**) before the forest fires.
3 Slow down! You're ..... (**FIT**) than me and I can't keep up!
4 Veronica seems ..... (**HAPPY**) since she moved schools.
5 It's actually ..... (**TRENDY**) to wear your hair up this year.
6 As the time for the performance got nearer, I got ..... (**NERVOUS**).
7 Old people are often ..... (**WISE**) than young people.
8 Why don't you try and find a ..... (**CHEAP**) computer game and save some money?
9 Matt seems to have got even ..... (**LAZY**) than he used to be and almost never studies.
10 If the problem gets any ..... (**SERIOUS**), we may need to inform the manager about it.
11 If you work ..... (**QUICKLY**), you'll finish sooner and then you can go home earlier.
12 Ben says he's feeling much ..... (**WELL**) after his illness.
13 I have even ..... (**LITTLE**) free time this year than I did last year.
14 The news was much ..... (**BAD**) than anyone had feared.
15 You'll need to be able to run ..... (**FAR**) than this if you're going to do the marathon.

B Complete using the superlative forms of the words in capitals.

1 I think Mohammed Ali was the ..... (**GREAT**) boxer that ever lived.
2 It was the ..... (**BORING**) film I had ever seen.
3 Our teacher told us that the student with the ..... (**HIGH**) mark would get a prize.
4 Ginger is one of the ..... (**LUCKY**) cats alive – he's been hit by a car three times and has never been hurt!
5 Out of all the students in my music school, I practise ..... (**OFTEN**).
6 The Pacific is the ..... (**DEEP**) ocean in the world.
7 That's the ..... (**UGLY**) fish I've ever seen!
8 I was ill before the exam and I did ..... (**BADLY**) out of the whole class.
9 The ..... (**FAR**) I've run in one day is about ten kilometres.
10 Don't you think this would be the ..... (**LOVELY**) spot for a picnic?
11 But that's the ..... (**CRAZY**) idea I've ever heard!
12 I asked the assistant to show me the ..... (**MODERN**) phone they had.
13 I told the manager that it was the ..... (**BAD**) hotel I had ever stayed in.
14 Who do you think is the ..... (**LITTLE**) talented actor to win an Oscar?
15 Out of all the members of the choir, Jason sang ..... (**WELL**).

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C Circle the correct word.

FILM REVIEW

Crime Does Pay, the (**1**) **later / latest** comedy from director Sam Martin, has to be one of the (**2**) **little / least** interesting films I have ever seen. The acting is terrible and the story is much (**3**) **worse / worst** than Martin's other flop, *Escape*. *Crime Does Pay* was apparently (**4**) **more / most** expensive than any other film this year, but it's hard to see where the money went. The plot concerns a gang of burglars who decide to steal the (**5**) **more / most** valuable painting in the world. Fine, except these criminals are far (**6**) **less / least** amusing than they should be. There isn't a single real laugh in the whole movie. When I saw it, even (**7**) **younger / youngest** members of the audience thought it was stupidly childish. Dean Richards, playing Scarnose, does a slightly (**8**) **better / best** job than the others, but there isn't much in it. When will Hollywood realise that as ticket prices get (**9**) **higher / highest**, more people are finding that the (**10**) **well / best** form of entertainment is to spend an evening at home with a DVD?

D Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words in each gap.

1 I have never read a better book than this one. **ever**
This is the ..... read.

2 Nobody has ever been this far into the jungle. **the**
This is ..... has ever been into the jungle.

3 I have never worked so hard in my whole life. **ever**
It was the ..... in my whole life.

4 Liam is the tallest boy in the class. **than**
Every other boy in the class ..... Liam.

5 This is the nicest beach along this part of the coast. **than**
This ..... the others along this part of the coast.

6 I read that Mount Everest is the highest mountain. **no**
I read that ..... Mount Everest.

7 Has anyone ever been this far north before? **the**
Is ..... has ever been?

8 The painting Ed did is the ugliest one you can imagine. **than**
You can't imagine ..... the one Ed did.

9 This stamp is rarer than any other in my collection. **more**
The other stamps in my collection ..... this one.

10 Nobody in the class runs as fast as Pedro. **runner**
Pedro ..... in the class.

E Rewrite each sentence using *so ... that*.

1 John can see over the wall because he is tall.
.....

2 I'm sure my sister will go to university because she is clever.
.....

3 I can't stop playing this computer game because it's good.
.....

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4 Tim can't come out because he has a lot of work to do.
.....

5 It's hot, which means I can't sleep.
.....

6 Tina arrived late, which meant she missed the train.
.....

7 We don't have any money for luxuries because we have a lot of bills to pay.
.....

8 It takes a day to get to Australia because it's very far away.
.....

F Match to make sentences.

1 Last year, winter started so .....
2 Last winter, there were so .....
3 Last year, we had such .....
4 Last winter, there was so .....
5 Last winter, there was such a lot of .....
6 Last winter was so .....

A many storms that we had floods.
B cold that the water in the pipes froze.
C a cold winter that I had to sleep with a hat on!
D suddenly that many people were taken by surprise.
E much snow that I skied nearly every day.
F snow that many wild animals died.

G Circle the correct word or phrase.

1 I don't think there's **enough pizza / pizza enough** for everyone.
2 I'm afraid you're not **enough old / old enough** to see this film.
3 Luckily, we got to the box office **enough early / early enough** and got the tickets.
4 Anne's **enough sensible / sensible enough** to realise she needs to work hard this year.
5 If you don't train **enough hard / hard enough**, you'll never win the race.
6 Have you got **enough credits / credits enough** to call Yiota on your mobile?
7 It should be **enough warm / warm enough** for a picnic this weekend.
8 I don't think I'm good enough **for getting / to get** into the swimming team.
9 Are you sure you've got enough chairs for **us all to sit down / we all sit down**?
10 In mountaineering, you have to be strong enough **for pull / to pull** yourself up with your fingers.

H Tick (✓) the correct sentences. If a sentence is incorrect, write another word to replace the word in bold.

1 I wanted to get some new trainers but they were **too** expensive. .....
2 Japanese is a **too** difficult language for Westerners to learn. .....
3 Daniel's **too** good at art and he's starting art school next year. .....
4 Don't invite **too** many people to the party or we won't have enough room. .....
5 If you try to write your essay **too** quickly, you'll make mistakes. .....
6 My new computer is **too** fast and can run all the latest programs. .....
7 Joanne was fined for driving **too** fast. .....
8 Carol couldn't climb over the wall because it was **too** high. .....
9 Cornwall is **too** beautiful and we go there every year on holiday. .....

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10 My grandparents are **too** old to work now and have retired. .....
11 It was **too** dark for me to see the map and I got lost. .....
12 My best friend is **too** funny and always makes me laugh. .....

I Choose the correct answer.

1 It was ..... windy that I couldn't stand up!
A so C enough
B such D too

2 Everyone had ..... a good time when we went bowling that we agreed to go again.
A so C enough
B such D too

3 Emma and Karen used to be ..... good friends that I'm surprised they don't get on now.
A so C enough
B such D too

4 I hope I've got ..... money to pay for this meal!
A so C enough
B such D too

5 I'm sorry, but I've got ..... much work to do to come to the beach today.
A so C enough
B such D too

6 My mum was ..... angry that I knew I'd better disappear for a while.
A so C enough
B such D too

7 They were ..... beautiful shoes that I decided I had to get them.
A so C enough
B such D too

8 The earthquake was ..... powerful that the town was destroyed.
A so C enough
B such D too

9 The shot was ..... quick for the goalkeeper and the ball hit the back of the net.
A so C enough
B such D too

10 I had ..... a bad headache that I went to lie down for a while.
A so C enough
B such D too

J Write one word in each gap.

CRIMESTOPPERS

'Hello, and welcome to *Crimestoppers*, the show that lets you, the viewer, help the police. We've had (**1**) ..... a lot of letters this week that it's difficult to know where to begin. We'll start with the story of Mrs Pat Williams, of Cambridge. Last Friday, Pat decided to go into town with her baby daughter. It's (**2**) ..... far to walk so they went to the bus stop. They waited (**3**) ..... a long time that baby Caroline started to cry. Pat picked the baby up out of the pram and she was (**4**) ..... busy she didn't notice the man beside her until it was (**5**) ..... late. He grabbed her handbag and ran off (**6**) ..... quickly for her to catch him. It all happened (**7**) ..... fast that there was nothing anyone could do. Police are appealing for witnesses. Maybe you were in the area. Maybe you think that what you saw is (**8**) ..... unimportant that the police won't be interested. Remember that no detail is (**9**) ..... small to be useful to the police. Call us here at *Crimestoppers* now.'

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