

Comparatives

Use

To compare things/people/actions that are different

Example

My new job is **more enjoyable** than my old one.
I'd like you to get to the office **earlier** tomorrow.

	adjective	→	comparative
one syllable	hard	+ -er	harder
one syllable ending in -e	late	+ -r	later
one syllable ending in vowel + consonant	big	double last letter + -er	bigger
two syllables ending in -y	pretty	-y → -ier	prettier
two or more syllables	interesting	more/less + adjective	more/less interesting
irregular adjectives / quantifiers	good → better bad → worse	little → less far → farther/further	many → more much → more
	adverb	→	comparative
regular adverbs	carefully	more/less + adverb	more/less carefully
irregular adverbs	well → better badly → worse early → earlier	near → nearer late → later	fast → faster far → farther/further

Helpful hints

The comparative form is often followed by *than*. ✓ *My working day is longer than it used to be.*

Superlatives

Use

To compare one member of a group of things/people/actions with the whole group

Example

Out of all the jobs in the company, John's is the **hardest**.
The person who does **best** will get a pay rise.

	adjective	→	superlative
one syllable	hard	+ -est	hardest
one syllable ending in -e	late	+ -st	latest
one syllable ending in vowel + consonant	big	double last letter + -est	biggest
two syllables ending in -y	pretty	-y → -iest	prettiest
two or more syllables	interesting	most/least + adjective	most/least interesting
irregular adjectives / quantifiers	good → best bad → worst	little → least far → farthest/furthest	many → most much → most
	adverb	→	superlative
regular adverbs	carefully	most/least + adverb	most/least carefully
irregular adverbs	well → best badly → worst early → earliest	near → nearest late → latest	fast → fastest far → farthest/furthest

Helpful hints

We usually use *the* before the superlative form. ✓ Today was **the worst** day since I started working there.

A Complete using the comparative form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Wait! Your bicycle is **(fast)** than mine!
- 2 Phew! It's much **(hot)** than it was yesterday, isn't it?
- 3 I think you look **(pretty)** when you wear your hair up.
- 4 The price of batteries has gone up. They're a lot **(expensive)** than last time.
- 5 Angus hasn't been practising the piano and he's got a lot **(bad)**.
- 6 His new film is much **(entertaining)** than his last one. I loved that one!
- 7 Tell us another joke – but a **(short)** one this time! That one took forever!
- 8 I didn't win the lottery. Maybe I'll be **(lucky)** next time.
- 9 The Russian athlete threw the discus **(far)** than all the others and won gold.
- 10 I think these biscuits are even **(nice)** than the last ones you made!

B The words in bold in each sentence are wrong. Write the correct word.

- 1 We lost the match because we played **badly** than the other team did.
- 2 It rains a lot in England, so the countryside is a lot **green** than in Greece.
- 3 You gave Sarah a really small piece of cake – and you've given me even **little**!
- 4 I must have lost weight. These jeans seem **large** than they were before.
- 5 I got to the party **early** than everyone else, so I had to wait.
- 6 I hear her new CD is **good** than her last one. What do you think?
- 7 Our cat seems to be getting **fat** every day – maybe she should go on a diet!
- 8 I'm disappointed. I think you could have done a lot **well** on this test.

C Rewrite the sentences using the correct comparative form of the words in the box.

bad • beautiful • confident • fat • happy • near (to) • short • young

1 Joshua is much taller than Alex. Alex is	5 Bill is thinner than Simon. Simon is
2 Theresa is more confident than Amy. Amy is a lot	6 Terry is older than Sarah-Jane. Sarah-Jane is
3 Your house is further from the school than mine. My house is	7 Patricia is better than her sister on the clarinet. Patricia's sister is
4 Jude is less happy than Andy about the decision. Andy is	8 The houses here are uglier than in my grandparents' village. The houses in my grandparents' village

D Complete using the correct form of the words in the box.

bad • big • far • funny • hard • kind • scary • tasty

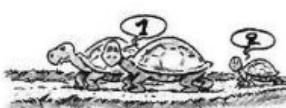
- 1 This really is the song I've ever heard! It's terrible!
- 2 Ivy is the woman I know. She'll do anything for anybody.
- 3 Listen! I promise you, this is the joke ever! Well, a man goes into a shop ...
- 4 Mmm! This is the soup you've made so far.
- 5 What's the thing about English grammar for you?
- 6 Ben appeared and he was carrying the present I'd ever seen. It was huge!
- 7 We had a competition to see who could swim the
- 8 Sandra told us the ghost story she could, and it was really frightening!

E Complete using the correct form of the words in brackets.

I think this is the (1) (**bad**) job I've ever had. My last job was much (2) (**good**) than this one. I had a lot (3) (**little**) work there and my boss was really nice. My boss here is the (4) (**strict**) in the whole firm, and the working day is (5) (**long**) than in my last job, too. The (6) (**good**) thing about it is that the office is (7) (**close**) to my house than the old one. At least now I get home (8) (**early**) than I used to.

F Complete using the correct form of the words in the box.

clean • dirty • fast • old • slowly • young



'I walk (1) than him.'
'I walk the (2) of all.'



'I ran (6) of all.'
'I ran (7) than everyone except him.'
'They both ran (8) than me.'



'I'm the (3) pigeon.'
'I'm (4) than they are.'
'I'm the (5) pigeon.'



'I'm the (9) in the family.'
'And I'm the (10) !'