

# Adjectives

Talking about people and things, and comparatives and superlatives

## **be + adjective + preposition**

In this unit you learn to use adjectives to talk about people and things. You also learn more about comparative and superlative forms.

When you want to describe people or things, you can use the verb **be** and an adjective.

*I'm cold.*

*She's kind.*

You can use adverbs like **very** and **really** in front of many adjectives.

*Paul's very tall.*

*These questions are really important.*

Adjectives have comparative (**taller**) and superlative (**the tallest**) forms, so you can compare two things or people.

*John's house is older than mine.*

*She's the tallest girl in the school.*

For most longer adjectives, you say **more** or **the most** before the adjective.

*I think geography is more interesting than chemistry.*

*Clara is the most beautiful girl I know.*

You can make comparisons using **not as ... as ...**, **less ... than ...** and **the least ...**.

- **not as ... as ...**

*Simon isn't as intelligent as Anna. (Anna is more intelligent than Simon.)*

- **less ... than ...**

You can also use **less ... than ...** with most longer adjectives.

*Reading books is less interesting than playing computer games.*

*(Playing computer games is more interesting than reading books.)*

- **the least ...**

*Why don't you buy these shoes? They're the least expensive. (the cheapest)*

Some adjectives are different from the examples above.

| Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| good      | better      | best        |
| bad       | worse       | worst       |

You need to use a preposition after some common adjectives.

| Preposition | Adjective                    |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| at          | good at, the worst at        |
| of          | fond of, afraid of           |
| with        | angry with, friendly with    |
| about       | worried about, excited about |
| to          | kind to, unkind to           |

*I was always **good at** maths at school.*

*My mum's really **afraid of** spiders.*

*I was late for school and my teacher was very **angry with** me.*

*I'm really **excited about** my holidays.*

*Sam was very **kind to** me on my first day at work.*

*My brother's **better** at tennis than me.*

## Exercise 1

Choose the correct word or words.

- 1 The **tall / taller / tallest** building I saw in Paris was the Eiffel Tower.
- 2 Anita is **smart / smarter / smartest** than all the girls in my class.
- 3 It's **hot / hotter / hottest** today than yesterday.
- 4 This ring was the **expensive / more expensive / most expensive** in the shop.
- 5 This book is less **heavy / heavier / heaviest** than that one.

## Exercise 2

Put the correct word in each gap.

colder | expensive | fastest | better | difficult | hardest | smaller

### What I did last year

Last year was the <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ year of my life. I moved to England and had to find a new job. England is <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ than Greece and it rains a lot too. I had to buy a jacket and some new boots. I live in a flat in the centre of town. It is <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ than my house in Greece but more comfortable. I work in a restaurant in the town centre. The food is the most <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in town but it is also really delicious. The job is more <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ than I thought but I am getting <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ at it.

### Exercise 3

Match the two parts.

- |                                            |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Mary doesn't like dogs.                  | a He is very kind to them.        |
| 2 Thomas is angry with me.                 | b She is afraid of them.          |
| 3 I am really fond of reading.             | c I forgot his birthday.          |
| 4 Jessica hates sport.                     | d She's really bad at it.         |
| 5 My brother loves animals.                | e I buy a new book every weekend. |
| 6 Charles plays for a local football team. | f He is really good at it.        |

### Exercise 4

Find one word that does not belong in each group, as shown.

|                                       |          |            |           |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1 Adjectives followed by <i>at</i>    | good     | busy       | bad       |
| 2 Adjectives followed by <i>of</i>    | fond     | afraid     | keen      |
| 3 Adjectives followed by <i>to</i>    | kind     | unkind     | careful   |
| 4 Adjectives followed by <i>with</i>  | friendly | frightened | angry     |
| 5 Adjectives followed by <i>about</i> | worried  | excited    | delicious |

### Exercise 5

Which sentences are correct?

- |                                                                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Jackie is good at basketball because she is the tallest in her class.              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Nurses have to work hard and be kind to everyone.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 My best friend is really angry of me because I lost her most expensive ring.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 That is the less interesting film I have ever seen.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 My sister Margaret is very keen of sport.                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Who do you think has the most important job, doctors, police officers or teachers? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Exercise 6

Put each sentence into the correct order.

- 1 the / is / best / to visit / time / you / what / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 about / my / I'm / new / excited / car / .

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 everyone / is / in / Nick / his class / younger / than / .

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 this chair / the / least / is / comfortable / .

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Jo / milk / is / chocolate / very fond / of / .

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6 peaches / sweetest / are / fruit / the / .

\_\_\_\_\_