

Comparatives and superlatives

Short adjectives

1) Listen to the story.

Look at the **comparative** and **superlative** adjectives. They are underlined.

Panel 1: The lynx is a wild cat. It is bigger and faster than a domestic cat.
Natural History Today: Cats
1. Domestic cats
2. Big cats

Panel 2: The cheetah is the fastest animal on land. It can reach a speed of 60 mph.
Natural History Today: Cats
1. Domestic cats
2. Big cats

Panel 3: The tiger is heavier than the cheetah. Actually, it's the biggest and heaviest animal in the cat family.
Natural History Today: Cats
1. Domestic cats
2. Big cats

Panel 4: And Cosmo is the laziest cat in the world!
Natural History Today: Cats
1. Domestic cats
2. Big cats

60 mph = miles per hour
= 96 km/h (kilometres per hour)

2) Complete the table with **comparative** and **superlative** adjectives from the story.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
fast	faster (than)	the fastest
big	bigg..... (than)	the bigg.....
heavy	heavier (.....) heaviest
lazy	lazi..... (.....) lazi.....

= when you don't want to work hard or make an effort, you're **lazy**.

3) Read the information:

Use	Form
We use the comparative form of adjectives to compare two people or things : <i>I'm taller than my brother.</i>	To form the comparative of SHORT adjectives, we add -er (than) : fast ----> faster (than) clever ----> cleverer (than)

1

2

(clever = intelligent)

Use	Form
We use the superlative form of adjectives to compare three or more people or things : <i>Tim is the tallest boy in his class.</i>	To form the superlative of SHORT adjectives, we use the + -est : fast ----> the fastest clever ----> the cleverest

Here, we are comparing Tim with all the boys in his class.

4) Look at the 3 spelling rules to add **-er** or **-est** and complete the table:

1 Adjectives ending in consonant + -y:

heavy → **heavier** / **the heaviest**

Change the **y** for an **i** and add **-er** or **-est**

2 Adjectives ending in -e:

nice → **nicer** / **the nicest**

Add only **-r** or **-st**

3 Adjectives ending in vowel + consonant:

big → **bigger** / **the biggest**

Double the last consonant and add **-er** or **-est**

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
strong	stronger	the strongest
pretty		
ugly		
small		
fast		
large		
fat		

pretty = attractive

ugly = NOT attractive

5) Complete with COMPARATIVE adjectives. Follow the example.

Example:

Neptune is *smaller than* Jupiter. (small)

- a) The Nile River in Egypt is the Mississippi River in the USA. (**long**)
- b) Mount Everest is Mount Aconcagua. (**high**)
- c) Los Angeles is New York City. (**big**)
- d) Silver is gold. (**cheap**)
- e) Asia is Europe. (**large**)

cheap = NOT expensive

large = big



gold



silver

6) Complete with SUPERLATIVE adjectives. Follow the example:

Example:

The smallest bird in the world is only 5.5 cm long. (small)

- a) The blue whale is animal in the world. (large)
- b) Howler monkeys are land animals. (noisy)
- c) snake in the world was a python. It was almost ten metres long. (long)
- d) fish in the world is the Indo-Pacific sailfish. (fast)
- e) The seahorse is fish. (slow)
- f) spider in the world can eat birds! (big)



sailfish



seahorse

7) COMPARATIVE or SUPERLATIVE?

- Choose the correct option.
- Then, write true answers.

a) Who is **taller** / **the tallest** student in your class?

b) Are you **the youngest** / **younger** than your Spanish teacher?

c) Is Chinese **easier** / **the easiest** than English?

d) Who is **older** / **the oldest** person in your family?

e) Which is **the biggest** / **bigger** room in your house?

