

## Comparative & Superlative

	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
one-/two-syllable adjectives	short big wide	shorter (than) bigger (than) wider (than)	<b>the shortest</b> <b>the biggest</b> <b>the widest</b>
-y adjectives	happy	happier (than)	<b>the happiest</b>
more than two-syllable adjectives	beautiful	<b>more</b> beautiful (than)	<b>the most</b> beautiful
irregular adjectives	good bad much/many little far	<b>better</b> (than) <b>worse</b> (than) <b>more</b> (than) <b>less</b> (than) <b>farther</b> (than)/ <b>further</b> (than)	<b>the best</b> <b>the worst</b> <b>the most</b> <b>the least</b> <b>the farthest</b> / <b>the furthest</b>

### Form

- With **one-syllable** and **two-syllable adjectives** we add **-er** in the comparative and **-est** in the superlative.  
*small – smaller (than) – the smallest*
- With **adjectives of more than two syllables** we form the comparative with **more** and the superlative with **the most**.  
*expensive – more expensive (than) – the most expensive (of/in)*

### Spelling

- With **one-syllable adjectives** ending in **-e** we add **-r** in the comparative and **-st** in the superlative.  
*nice – nicer (than) – the nicest*
- With **one-syllable adjectives** that end in **vowel + consonant**, we **double the last consonant** and we add **-er** or **-est**.  
*thin – thinner (than) – the thinnest*
- With **two-syllable adjectives** that end in **-y**, we change the **-y** to **-i** and we add **-er** or **-est**.  
*busy – busier (than) – the busiest (of/in)*

### Use

- We use **the comparative** to compare **one person or thing with another**. We can use **than** with the comparative.  
*Mark is **more intelligent than** Tony.  
Trains are **faster than** cars.*
- We use **the superlative** to compare **one person, animal, thing, etc with more than two persons, animals, things, etc in the same group**. We use **the ... of/in** with the superlative. We use **in** with the superlative when we talk about a place.  
*The cheetah is **the fastest animal of all**.  
Judy is **the tallest girl in the class**.*
- We use **(not) as + adjective + as** to show whether two **people, places or things** are the same or not.  
*The red dress is **not as expensive as** the blue one.*

For emphasis we use:

- very + adjective.** *It is **very cold** today.*
- much/a lot/far/a little/a bit + comparative form + than.** *He isn't **much younger than** me.*

## Comparative & Superlative

19 a) Complete the table.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
	better	
noisy		
	cheaper	
		<b>the least</b>
fit		
much/many		
		<b>the tallest</b>
	more crowded	
poisonous		
		<b>the safest</b>

b) Complete the sentences with adjectives from the table.

- Buses are always ..... than trains and I can never find a seat on them.
- Now that school is over, we have ..... free time.
- With all those people and traffic coming and going every day, the centre is ..... part of the city.
- The African Black Mamba is one of ..... snakes in the world; its bite is lethal.
- Taxis are fast and take you where you want in ..... time than many other forms of transport.
- Matt is so funny! He tells ..... jokes in the family.
- Ian works out at the gym every day, because he wants to become ..... than he is now.
- You should buy a return ticket, because it's ..... than buying two single ones.
- Basketball players are generally ..... than football players.
- Many people believe that aeroplanes offer ..... way to travel, as they have a very low accident count.

20 Complete the questions with the correct comparative/superlative form of the adjectives in brackets, and then choose the correct answer.

### 21 Put the adjectives in brackets into the correct form.

1 James finds going to the amusement park a lot ..... (enjoyable) than spending time at the games arcade.

2 Lisa is ..... (attractive) girl in our school.

3 Our new neighbours are very ..... (friendly).

4 John's room is the ..... (messy) one in the house.

5 Saturday morning is ..... (bad) time to go shopping; the shops are always extremely busy and crowded then.

6 Snake bites are a lot ..... (painful) than insect stings.

7 Jason's car isn't as ..... (fast) as Ethan's.

8 I think the staff at the new restaurant are a bit rude and should be ..... (polite) to customers.

22 Read the information below about three sisters, then complete the sentences using the correct form of the adjectives in the list.

- short • artistic • old • dark • young
- athletic • heavy • tall



Marisa

Date of birth: 4th April, 1992

Height: 1.73 metres

**Weight:** 64 kilos

**Hobbies:** painting



Sarah

Date of birth: 9th January, 1994

**Height:** 1.69 metres

**Weight:** 59 kilos

**Hobbies:** going out with friends



Ellie

Date of birth: 3rd July 1997

Height: 1.63 metres

**Weight:** 51 kilos

**Hobbies:** sports

- 1 Marisa is ..... of the three sisters.  
She's 1.73 metres.
- 2 Sarah is three years ..... than Ellie.
- 3 Marisa is ..... of the three sisters;  
she loves painting and takes part in art  
competitions.
- 4 Sarah isn't as ..... as Ellie; she  
prefers going out with friends to playing  
sports.
- 5 At 1.63 metres, Ellie is ..... of the  
three sisters.
- 6 Marisa is the ..... of the three  
sisters. She weighs 64 kilos.
- 7 Ellie is five years ..... than Marisa.
- 8 Marisa and Sarah have fair hair, but Ellie's hair  
is ..... than her sisters'.