

The Comparative and Superlative forms of adverbs are formed in the same way as those of adjectives.

Adverbs	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
adverbs having the same forms as their adjectives add -er/-est	long	longer	(the) longest
'early' drops -y and adds -ier/-iest	early	earlier	(the) earliest
two syllable or compound adverbs take more/most (Compound adverbs are adjectives + -ly. careful – carefully)	often quietly patiently	more often more quietly more patiently	(the) most often (the) most quietly (the) most patiently

Irregular Forms

Adjective/Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
good / well	better	the best
bad / badly	worse	the worst
much many / a lot of	more	the most
little	less	the least
far	farther/further	the farthest/furthest

Well is the adverb of **good**.
She is a good cook. She cooks **well**.

- further/farther** (adv) = longer (in distance) His office is **further/farther** away than mine.
further (adj) = more For **further** information contact Mr Smith.
- very + positive degree** It's **very** hot in here.
- even/much/far/a bit + comparative degree** He behaves **even worse** than before. Jenny is **much more patient** with children than Julie.
- most + adj/adv of positive degree** = **very** She was **most** obliging. (She was **very** obliging.)
- any + comparative** (used in negatives and questions) This essay wasn't **any better** than the previous one.

17 Write the comparative and superlative forms of the following adverbs.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|-------|
| 1 early | <i>earlier</i> (the) <i>earliest</i> | 4 bad | |
| 2 carefully | | 5 quietly | |
| 3 peacefully | | 6 hard | |

18 Use the adverbs in the list to complete the sentences. Add any necessary words.

slowly loudly easily carefully quickly happily

- Chris is jogging ... *more slowly than* ... usual today.
- A cheetah moves much a lion.
- The teacher spoke when the student asked for the question to be repeated.
- Carmel completed that puzzle the last one.
- Kim drives of all the members of her family.
- Jack is smiling anyone else in the picture.

4

Adjectives / Adverbs / Comparisons

19

Write comparatives or superlatives in the gaps. Then answer the questions. Check your answers.

QUIZ?



- 1 Which is the biggest **(big)** planet in the solar system?
a Mars b Jupiter
- 2 Is the Atlantic Ocean **(small)** than the Pacific Ocean?
a yes b no
- 3 Which is **(long)** river in the world?
a the Nile b the Mississippi
- 4 Which is **(old)** university in England?
a Cambridge b Oxford
- 5 Is Big Ben in London **(tall)** than the Leaning Tower of Pisa?
a yes b no
- 6 Which city is **(far)** from the equator?
a New York b Sydney
- 7 Can the blue whale swim **(fast)** than the dolphin?
a yes b no
- 8 Which is **(high)** waterfall in the world?
a the Niagara Falls b the Angel Falls

Answer key
1b, 2a, 3a, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7b, 8b

20

Underline the correct item.

Living in London

It is 1) **very** / **far** more expensive to live in London than any other city in Britain. Rents are 2) **much** / **very** higher and it is 3) **most** / **far** difficult to find accommodation of any kind. Trying to find a flat in a convenient location is 4) **even** / **very** more frustrating. You can live in the suburbs, but it will take you 5) **much** / **any** longer to get to work and the fares are 6) **very** / **far** high. Wages are normally 7) **a bit** / **very** higher in London, but that doesn't mean you will have 8) **many** / **much** more money to spend since the cost of living there is 9) **most** / **far** higher than you would expect.



21

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the adjective/adverb in brackets, adding any necessary words.

- 1 Could you speak more slowly **(slow)**? I don't understand what you're saying.
- 2 I think French is **(difficult)** than English.
- 3 It's much **(hot)** this summer than it was last year.
- 4 Karen ran much **(fast)** Pamela during the race.
- 5 This car is too small for our family. We need something much **(big)**.
- 6 Jupiter is **(big)** planet in the solar system.

Too – Enough

- **Too** comes before an adjective or an adverb in a sentence. It has a **negative meaning** and shows that there is a greater amount or degree of something than what is wanted.

too + adjective/adverb + to infinitive

The tea is **too hot to drink**. (=It's so hot that we can't drink it.)

- **Enough** comes after an adjective or adverb but before a noun. It shows that there is an amount or degree of something that is satisfactory or acceptable.

adjective/adverb + enough } + to-infinitive
enough + noun

She is **tall enough to reach** the top shelf. (=She can reach the top shelf)

We have got **enough money to buy** a new car. (We can buy a new car.)

Study the examples:

Henry is **tall enough** to be a basketball player. (he can be a basketball player – positive meaning)

Henry isn't **tall enough** to be a basketball player. (he can't be a basketball player – negative meaning)

Henry is **too short** to be a basketball player. (he can't be a basketball player – negative meaning)

Quite – Fairly – Rather – Pretty

- **Quite** (= fairly, to some degree) is used in **favourable comments**. He's **quite** clever. **Quite** also means **completely**. It is used with adverbs, verbs and certain adjectives such as: alone, amazing, brilliant, certain, dead, dreadful, different, exhausted, extraordinary, false, good, horrible, impossible, perfect, ridiculous, right, sure, true, useless, etc. She's **quite** exhausted. (completely exhausted). She dances **quite** well. I don't **quite** agree with you.
- **Rather** is used in **unfavourable comments**. It's **rather** cold today. It is also used in **favourable comments** when it means 'to an unusual degree'. The film was **rather** interesting. (It was more interesting than we expected.) **Rather** is also used with **comparative degree**. It's **rather** warmer today than yesterday. (NOT: it's ~~quite~~ warmer ...)
- **Fairly** and **pretty** are synonymous with **quite** and **rather**. **Quite** is used before **a/an**. She's **quite** a good teacher. **Rather** is used before or after **a/an**. It was **a rather** hot day. It was **rather** a hot day. **Fairly** and **pretty** are used after **a**. She's **a fairly/pretty** good teacher.

22 Rewrite the sentences using **too** or **enough**.

- 1 It's very slippery. We can't drive.

It's too slippery to drive.

- 2 John is rich. He can buy an expensive car.

- 3 These shoes are tight. I can't dance in them.

- 4 Leonard is strong. He can carry the table.

- 5 The volume is very low. I can't hear anything.

- 6 Ted is short. He can't see over the wall.

- 7 That dog is very tired. It can't run.

- 8 Sue is tall. She can reach the top shelf.

- 9 Linda ran very fast. She won the race.

- 10 Her house isn't big. She can't have a party.

- 11 Alex is young. He can't drive.

- 12 It's noisy. I can't do my homework.

- 13 Tom is clever. He can solve the problem.

- 14 It isn't windy. They can't go sailing.

4

Adjectives / Adverbs / Comparisons

23 Underline the correct item.

- 1 Being a doctor is a **quite** / pretty stressful job.
- 2 This printer never works. It's fairly / **quite** useless.
- 3 Lisa is **rather** / **quite** more sporty than her sister.
- 4 It was **rather** / pretty a waste of time cooking dinner. Tim's just ordered pizza.
- 5 Robert is **quite** / fairly a funny man.
- 6 Kim is **rather** / fairly good at Maths, but she sometimes makes mistakes.
- 7 It is **pretty** / **rather** a long way from the bus stop to the school.
- 8 The witness's account of the robbery was **quite** / pretty true.
- 9 It was a fairly / **quite** interesting film but it wasn't the best I've seen.
- 10 John is **rather** / **quite** certain that he'll pass the exams.

24 Fill in: *quite* or *rather*.

- A: I found that book a 1) rather boring one.
 B: Oh really? I thought it had 2) a good plot.
 A: Oh, come on! The ending was a 3) unlikely one, don't you think?
 B: No, not at all. In fact, I think the whole book was 4) interesting.
 A: Well, if you ask me, you've got a 5) strange taste in books.



Adverbs of Degree

	very (+++)	rather (++)	a little (+)
with adjectives, adverbs or verbs	just, absolutely, totally, awfully, terribly, really, simply <i>I'm terribly sorry, sir.</i>	quite, rather <i>It's quite/ rather late. We'd better go.</i>	a little, a bit <i>Can you wait a little/a bit?</i>
with adjectives or adverbs	very, extremely <i>She's very rude and behaves extremely impolitely.</i>	pretty, fairly <i>I'm pretty/ fairly sure he's lying.</i>	slightly <i>She's slightly fat.</i>
with verbs or comparative form	very much, a lot, <i>I very much appreciate your help. I feel a lot better now.</i>	rather <i>It's rather warmer today.</i>	not ... much <i>He isn't much taller than me.</i>

25 Fill in one of the degree adverbs from the table above.

- A: How long will it be before I can see Mr Jones, please?
 B: I'm 1) very (+++) sorry sir, but Mr Jones is 2) (+++) busy at the moment. He has a lot of clients to see to this afternoon. Perhaps you could return tomorrow?
 A: I'm afraid it's 3) (++) important that I see him today. Could you tell him that Mr Peters is here? I'm 4) (++) sure that he will want to see me.
 B: OK. If you don't mind waiting 5) (+), I'll give him your message when he's finished his current meeting.