

Comparative and superlative practice

Name _____ Date _____

Choose an adjective from the box and write its comparative or superlative form. **Use each word once.** Use -er/-est, more/most or less/least as needed.

reliable high cheap confusing heavy interesting convenient wide
dangerous easy crowded thin comfortable noisy fast expensive

1. The picture is almost touching the ceiling.
It's hanging _____ than the one beside the door.
2. These seats have no cushions and hurt my back.
They're _____ than the soft, padded ones.
3. My suitcase weighs 23 kg; yours weighs 15 kg.
Mine is _____ than yours.
4. I finished this puzzle in five minutes, but the last one took an hour.
This one was _____ than the last one.
5. The new printer works every time; the old one often broke down.
The new one is _____ than the old one.
6. Three shops sell this camera for R6,000, R8,000 and R10,000.
The first shop is the _____ place to buy it.
7. Two cars can pass each other here, but only one fits on the old road.
This road is _____ than the old one.
8. The new instructions have clear diagrams; the old ones were hard to follow.
The new version is _____ than the old one.
9. Three buses had 15, 40 and 60 passengers, with the same number of seats.
The first bus was the _____.
10. I could barely hear our conversation over the restaurant's loud music.
It was _____ than the quiet cafe we usually visit.
11. The express train takes 40 minutes; the local train takes an hour.
The express train is _____ than the local train.
12. The new shop is next to my office, so I can stop there on my way home.
It's _____ for me than the old shop across town.
13. The old phone was 10 mm thick, and this model is only 7 mm thick.
This model is _____ than the old one.
14. This route has sharp bends and no barriers beside the cliffs.
It's _____ than the flat road through town.
15. The first talk was just a list of dates; the second had surprising stories.
I found the second talk _____ than the first.
16. The cafe charges R25 for a coffee, but the hotel charges R45.
Coffee is _____ at the cafe than at the hotel.



Write sentences about the picture.

Comparative and superlative rules

Comparatives compare one thing with another: The blue kite is higher than the red kite. Superlatives identify an extreme in a group: The blue kite is the highest of the three.

1 Most one syllable adjectives

Add -er for the comparative and -est for the superlative.

high → higher → highest; cheap → cheaper → cheapest

2 Adjectives ending in e

Add only -r or -st when the adjective takes these endings.

wide → wider → widest; nice → nicer → nicest

3 Doubling the final consonant

For a one-syllable adjective ending in one vowel letter + one consonant, double the final consonant before -er or -est.

big → bigger → biggest; thin → thinner → thinnest

Do not double w, x or y: new → newer → newest. Do not double after two vowel letters or two final consonants: cheap → cheaper; long → longer.

4 Adjectives ending in consonant plus y

For two-syllable adjectives ending in a consonant + y, change y to i, then add -er or -est. This gives -ier and -iest.

easy → easier → easiest; noisy → noisier → noisiest

heavy → heavier → heaviest

5 Using more most less and least

Use more and most with most other two-syllable adjectives and longer adjectives. Keep the adjective unchanged.

crowded → more crowded → most crowded

expensive → more expensive → most expensive

Less and least

Use less + adjective for a lower degree, and the least + adjective for the lowest degree in a group. Keep the adjective unchanged.

The blue café is less crowded than the red café.

The blue café is the least crowded of the three.

With short adjectives, an opposite form often sounds more natural: smaller/smallest rather than less big/least big.

6 Two syllable adjectives with both options

Some allow either pattern: simpler / more simple; simplest / most simple. Two-syllable adjectives vary, so check a dictionary if unsure.

7 Common irregular forms

good → better → best

bad → worse → worst

far → farther/further → farthest/furthest (distance)