

Comparative and superlative adjectives

Comparative adjectives

We use **comparative adjectives** to show change or make comparisons:

*This car is certainly **better**, but it's much **more expensive**.*

*I'm feeling **happier** now.*

*We need a **bigger** garden.*

We use *than* when we want to **compare one thing with another**:

*She is two years older **than** me.*

*New York is much bigger **than** Boston.*

*He is a better player **than** Ronaldo.*

*France is a bigger country **than** Britain.*

When we want to **describe how something or someone changes** we can use two comparatives with *and*:

*The balloon got **bigger and bigger**.*

*Everything is getting **more and more expensive**.*

*Grandfather is looking **older and older**.*

Superlative adjectives

We use *the* with **superlative adjectives**:

*It was **the happiest day** of my life.*

*Everest is **the highest mountain** in the world.*

*That's **the best film** I have seen this year.*

*I have three sisters: Jan is **the oldest** and Angela is **the youngest**.*

How to form comparative and superlative adjectives

We usually add *-er* and *-est* to **one-syllable words** to make comparatives and superlatives:

<i>old</i>	<i>older</i>	<i>oldest</i>
<i>long</i>	<i>longer</i>	<i>longest</i>

If an adjective **ends in -e**, we add *-r* or *-st*:

<i>nice</i>	<i>nicer</i>	<i>nicest</i>
<i>large</i>	<i>larger</i>	<i>largest</i>

If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

<i>big</i>	<i>bigger</i>	<i>biggest</i>
<i>fat</i>	<i>fatter</i>	<i>fattest</i>

If an adjective **ends in a consonant and -y**, we change *-y* to *-i* and add *-er* or *-est*:

<i>happy</i>	<i>happier</i>	<i>happiest</i>
<i>silly</i>	<i>sillier</i>	<i>silliest</i>

We use *more* and *most* to make comparatives and superlatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

<i>careful</i>	<i>more careful</i>	<i>most careful</i>
<i>interesting</i>	<i>more interesting</i>	<i>most interesting</i>

However, with **these common two-syllable adjectives**, you can **either** add *-er/-r* and *-est/-st* or use *more* and *most*:

<i>common</i> <i>cruel</i> <i>gentle</i> <i>handsome</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>narrow</i> <i>pleasant</i> <i>polite</i> <i>simple</i> <i>stupid</i>
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*He is certainly **handsomer** than his brother.*

*His brother is handsome, but he is **more handsome**.*

*She is one of **the politest** people I have ever met.*

*She is **the most polite** person I have ever met.*

The adjectives **good**, **bad** and **far** have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

<i>good</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>best</i>
<i>bad</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>worst</i>
<i>far</i>	<i>farther/further</i>	<i>farthest/furthest</i>