

Comparatives and Superlatives

1. Comparatives

Comparatives are used to compare two things. How the comparative form is created depends on how many syllables there are in the adjective.

ADJECTIVE FORM	EXAMPLE	COMPARATIVE
One syllable ending in -e. They add -r in the comparative form.	Nice Wide	Nicer Wider
One syllable ending in one vowel and one consonant at the end. They double the consonant and add -er.	Hot Big Fat	Hotter Bigger Fatter
One syllable adjectives in general add -er.	Kind	Kinder
Two syllables ending in -y. They change -y to -i and add -er.	Happy Pretty	Happier Prettier
Two syllable or more not ending in -y. They use 'more' before the adjective to form the comparative form.	Expensive Modern Interesting	More expensive More modern More interesting

You can use sentences with 'than' to compare two things. For example:

American cars are often **bigger** than European cars.

Some languages are **more difficult** than others.

2. Superlatives

Superlatives are used to compare more than two things or to express the highest quality of one thing in a group of things.

Attending to the number of syllables, superlative adjectives are formed as follows:

ADJECTIVE FORM	EXAMPLE	SUPERLATIVE
One syllable ending in -e. They add -st in the superlative form.	Nice Wide	Nicest Widest
One syllable ending in one vowel and one consonant at the end. They double the consonant and add -est.	Hot Big Fat	Hottest Biggest Fattest
One syllable adjectives in general add -est.	Kind	Kindest
Two syllables ending in -y. They change -y to -i and add -est.	Happy Pretty	Happiest Prettiest
Two syllable or more not ending in -y. They use 'the most' before the adjective to form the comparative form.	Expensive Modern Interesting	The most expensive The most modern The most interesting

In superlative sentences, 'the' usually appears because there is only one superlative. For example:

Antarctica is the **coldest** place in the world.

Peter is the **tallest** in the class.

3. Irregular forms

There are some adjectives that form their comparative and superlative form in an irregular way. Some of the most common ones are:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Bad	Worse	The worst
Good	Better	The best
Far	<u>Farther (length or distance):</u> London is farther north than New York. <u>Further (time or amount):</u> According to my timetable, we should be further along. This plan requires further study.	The farthest The furthest
Little	Less	The least
Much	More	The most