COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

TYPES OF COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Comparative form</th>
<th>Superlative form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to a higher degree</td>
<td>more ... than -er ... than</td>
<td>the most the -est</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the same degree</td>
<td>as + adj/adv + as not + so/as + adj/adv + as</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to a lower degree</td>
<td>less... than</td>
<td>the least</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One syllable ending in V + C</th>
<th>Comparative form</th>
<th>Superlative form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One syllable ending in -e</td>
<td>add -r: fine &gt; finer</td>
<td>add –st fine &gt; finest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two syllables ending in -y &amp; -ow</td>
<td>-y&gt; -ier happy &gt; happier -ow&gt;-er narrow &gt; narrower</td>
<td>-y&gt; -iest happy &gt; happiest -ow &gt; -est narrow &gt; narrowest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other two- or more syllable adjs or advs
more + adj more + adv the most + adj the most + adv

IRREGULAR ADJS AND ADVS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJECTIVE</th>
<th>Comparative form</th>
<th>Superlative form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>the worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>little</td>
<td>less</td>
<td>the least</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much</td>
<td>more</td>
<td>the most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>further / farther</td>
<td>the furthest / the farthest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANOTHER TYPE OF COMPARISON

The + comparative, the + comparative: To say that as one thing changes, another thing also changes. Notice the position of the subject.

Ex.: The better the joke (is), the louder the laugh (is).
     The longer Sue stays in Canada, the less likely she’ll ever go back.
     The higher the temperature, the hotter I am.
     The bigger the apartment (is), the more expensive it becomes.

SENTENCE PATTERNS

Formal: He’s taller than I am. (subject + V )
Informal: He’s taller than me. (object pronoun)

COMPARING QUANTITIES

She spends more/less (money) than her brother does.

Auxiliary in the same tense

He wrote more quickly than I did. (past tense)
He has done the exercise better than I have. (past perfect)
### Comparatives and Superlatives

#### Modifying Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Big difference</th>
<th>Small difference</th>
<th>Almost no difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **comp.** | far / a lot (informal) / (very) much + comparative  
  *He is far / a lot / much better than me.*  
  = molt/més | rather + comparative  
  *This task is rather harder than the previous one.*  
  (= més aviat, tirant a...) | slightly / a bit (informal) / a little / not any / no + comparative  
  *This book is no cheaper than the other one.*  
  = Aquest llibre no és gaire més barat que l’altre. |
| **superl.** | by far / easily + superlative  
  *He is by far the best singer in the band.*  
  = de lluny | just (about) + superlative  
  *It was just about the longest ceremony ever.*  
  = era igual de llarga que la més llarga de les cerimònies |  |
| **as ... as** | not nearly / not quite + as... as  
  *This party is not nearly as good as last year’s.*  
  *This is not nearly as good a party as last year’s.*  
  = no és ni de bon tros tan... com | almost / nearly / quite + as... as  
  *The weather is almost as hot as it was last time.*  
  = és quasi tan... com | just / nearly + as ... as  
  *The first show was nearly as good as the second one.*  
  = és igual de... que |
COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

COMPARING ACTIVITIES

**WOULD RATHER** + INFINITIVE (WITHOUT TO) **THAN** + INFINITIVE (WITHOUT TO)

Ex.: I would rather die than marry you!!! (Prefereixo morir-me abans que casar-me amb tu!)

**PREFER** + -ING **TO**¹ -ING
Ex.: I prefer dying to marrying you. (Prefereixo morir-me abans que casar-me amb tu!)

¹ This ‘to’ is NOT a to-infinitive but a preposition. That’s why it’s followed by the -ing form.