

## COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

### TYPES OF COMPARISON

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

### FORMATION

	Comparative form	Superlative form
<b>One</b> syllable	-er: <i>lower, higher</i>	the -est : <i>lowest, highest</i>
<b>One</b> syllable ending in V + C	double the consonant <i>hot &gt; hotter</i>	double the consonant: <i>hot &gt; hottest</i>
<b>One</b> syllable ending in -e	add -r: <i>fine &gt; finer</i>	add -st <i>fine &gt; finest</i>
<b>Two</b> syllables ending in -y & -ow	-y > -ier <i>happy &gt; happier</i> -ow > -er <i>narrow &gt; narrower</i>	-y > -iest <i>happy &gt; happiest</i> -ow > -est <i>narrow &gt; narrowest</i>
<b>Other two- or more</b> syllable adjs or advs	more + adj <i>more tiring</i>	the most + adj <i>the most tiring</i>

### IRREGULAR ADJS AND ADVS.

ADJECTIVE	Comparative form	Superlative form
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
little	less	the least
much	more	the most
far	further / farther	the furthest / the farthest

### 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)

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### MODIFYING COMPARISONS

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

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### 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**<sup>1</sup> -ING

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

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<sup>1</sup> This 'to' is NOT a to-infinitive but a preposition. That's why it's followed by the -ing form.