COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Adapted from N. Frigolé
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One syllable adjectives</th>
<th>COMPARATIVES</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adjective + -er (+ than)</td>
<td>Barcelona is bigger than Girona</td>
<td>the adjective + -est</td>
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<td>A car is faster than a bike</td>
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<td>Barcelona is the biggest city in Catalonia</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Planes are the fastest means of transport</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two or more syllable adjectives</th>
<th>COMPARATIVES</th>
<th>SUPERLATIVES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>more + adjective (+ than)</td>
<td>A motorbike is more expensive than a bike</td>
<td>the most + adjective</td>
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<td>Chinese is more difficult than English</td>
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<td>This is the most comfortable chair I’ve ever tried.</td>
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<td>Susan is the most intelligent girl in the class.</td>
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Adjectives and adverbs that end in –y:

**Adjectives:** They work as one syllable adjectives.
- Peter is happier than his sister.
- This is the dirtiest restaurant I’ve ever been to.

**Adverbs:** they work as two or more syllable adverbs
- Can you speak more slowly please?

### Irregular adjectives/adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective/adverb</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good/well</td>
<td>Better (than)</td>
<td>The best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad/badly</td>
<td>Worse (than)</td>
<td>The worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far</td>
<td>Farther (<em>lluny</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Further (<em>lluny</em> + additional) (than)</td>
<td>The farthest/the furthest (<em>el més llunyà / el més llunyà + el que més pots afegir</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Some two syllable adjectives accept both types of comparatives and superlatives. These include: clever, common, friendly, gently, narrow, pleasant, polite, quiet, simple, stupid...

Quiet – quieter/more quiet - the quietest/the most quiet

- We can use some adverbs in front of comparatives and superlatives:

  1. To describe small differences → a bit (informal), a little, slightly (=una mica)
     I’m feeling a little better than I was this morning.

  2. To describe big differences → (quite) a lot (informal), much, far (=molt més)
     This house is much more expensive than my house.

  3. To emphasize the difference between one person or one thing and all the others use → by far, easily.
     This is by far the most exercise in the exam.
4. The opposite of ‘more’ and ‘most’ are less and least. You can use them with adjective and adverbs regardless of the number of syllables.

I bought the least expensive jacket in the shop
la menys cara

5. More/most or less/least uncountable nouns.

I have less time than last year. (menys temps que)

More/most or fewer/fewest countable nouns.

I have fewer exercises to do this week. (menys exercis que…)

6. Use the + comparative, the + comparative to show that two changes happen together. It expresses consequence, rather than comparison.

The sooner, the better. (Com més aviat, millor.)
The harder you work, the more you can learn. (Com més treballes, més aprends.)
When two things are (not) the same

(just) + as + adjective/adverb + as = és igual de
This house is (just) as big as my house.

In negative sentences you can use: so/as + adj/adv + as (= no és tan...)
This house isn’t so big as my house/ This house isn’t as big as my house.

Use almost, nearly to qualify comparisons (= quasi tan…)
She speaks English almost as well as her teacher.

Use not quite to describe small differences (= no és tan…)
It isn’t quite as/so cold as it was yesterday.

Use not nearly for big differences (=no és ni de bon tros/ ni de lluny tan…)
The exercise isn’t nearly as difficult as I expected.
SOME YOUTUBE VIDEOS TO KEEP LEARNING

- Comparatives and superlatives - 6 Minute Grammar (BBC 6 minutes English)
- Learn how to form comparatives and superlatives in English (GoEnglish)
- Comparatives and Superlatives with Teacher Daniel (The English bug – Daniel Watson)
- Grammar: Comparatives and superlatives (Cambridge English Empower)
Hi Suzan,

I'm having a wonderful time in Los Angeles. The weather is 1 hottest and drier 2 that/as/than in England and Americans are friendlier than 3 our/we/us. The food is better here; it not the same 4 than/as/that the food in England at all! From all the countries I've been to, I think English food is the 5 least/more/less pleasant. It's awful. Yesterday I had the best hamburger I've 6 ever/before/never eaten!

The hotel is beautiful. I think it's not as 7 nice as/nicer as/nicer than the hotel we stayed in New York, but it's 8 lot more/most/much more comfortable. They say that Los Angeles is one of the most expensive cities 9 from/of/in the world, but actually I'm not spending 10 as many/more/as much money as I thought. I'll phone you when I get back.

Love, Megan
Hi Suzan,

I'm having a wonderful time in Los Angeles. The weather is 1 hotter/hoter/hottest and drier 2 that/as/than in England and Americans are friendlier than 3 our/we/us. The food is better here; it not the same 4 than/as/that the food in England at all! From all the countries I've been to, I think English food is the 5 least/more/less pleasant. It's awful. Yesterday I had the best hamburger I've 6 ever/before/never eaten!

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Love, Megan
LINKS TO KEEP PRACTICING


https://www.english-in-chester.co.uk/e-learning/lesson/superlatives-comparatives/