

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES BY National Geographic learning (NGL.Cengage.com/ELT)

8.1 Comparative Adjectives

	Comparative Adjective	Than	
The blue car is	newer	than	the gray car.
	more expensive		

<p>1. Use a comparative adjective + <i>than</i> to compare two people, places, or things.</p> <p>You can use a comparative adjective + noun when the comparison is clear from context.</p>	<p>Lydia is taller than Alex.</p> <p>Gorillas are more intelligent than cows.</p> <p>The bigger house is mine.</p> <p>The more interesting shows are on cable TV.</p>
<p>2. Add <i>-er</i> to the end of most one-syllable adjectives to form the comparative.* If the adjective ends in <i>-e</i>, add <i>-r</i>.</p>	<p>small → smaller low → lower</p> <p>large → larger nice → nicer</p>
<p>3. Use <i>more</i> before most long adjectives (adjectives that have two or more syllables).</p>	<p>Jack is more serious than Nikki.</p> <p>Do you think math is more important than music?</p>
<p>4. Some two-syllable adjectives are used with either <i>-er</i> or <i>more</i> to form the comparative.</p>	<p>quiet → quieter / more quiet</p> <p>simple → simpler / more simple</p>
<p>5. Some adjectives have an irregular comparative form.</p>	<p>good → better bad → worse</p> <p>far → farther, further</p>

8.2 Comparative Adverbs

	Comparative Adverb	Than	
Gas prices are rising	faster	than	food prices.
	more rapidly		

<p>1. Use a comparative adverb + <i>than</i> to compare two actions.</p>	<p>Mark works harder than Jeff.</p> <p>Carol drives more carefully than Peter.</p>
<p>2. Add <i>-er</i> to the end of one-syllable adverbs to form the comparative.</p>	<p>fast → faster hard → harder</p> <p>long → longer high → higher</p>
<p>3. Use <i>more</i> before adverbs that end with <i>-ly</i>.</p>	<p>quickly → more quickly</p> <p>frequently → more frequently</p>
<p>4. Some adverbs have an irregular comparative form.</p>	<p>well → better far → farther, further</p> <p>badly → worse</p>

8.3 Completing Comparisons

1. You can use an object pronoun to complete a comparison. But in more formal speaking and writing, use a subject pronoun + an auxiliary verb.	Ed is six feet tall. Bob is taller than him . <small>Object Pronoun</small> Ed is six feet tall. Bob is taller than he is . <small>Subject Pronoun + Aux. Verb</small>
2. Use an auxiliary verb after <i>than</i> . Do not repeat the main verb.	✓ Ana runs faster than Pat does . ✗ Ana runs faster than Pat runs .
3. A possessive noun or possessive pronoun can be used after <i>than</i> .	My car was more expensive than Ellen's . My car was more expensive than hers .
4. If the comparison is clear, <i>than</i> and the second part of the comparison are not necessary.	Nowadays, smart phones are cheaper .
5. Be careful! Use <i>than</i> , not <i>then</i> , in a comparison.	✓ I work harder than I used to. ✗ I work harder then I used to.

8.4 Comparisons with As...As

	As	Adjective	As			As	Adverb	As	
My car is	as	big comfortable	as	your car.	I drive	as	well carefully	as	you do.

1. Use <i>as</i> + adjective/adverb + <i>as</i> to compare two people, places, or things that are the same or equal in some way.	Adjective: Your car is as old as mine. Adverb: I can run a mile as fast as you can.
2. To complete a comparison with <i>as...as</i> , you can use a. a noun (+ verb) b. a subject pronoun + verb or an auxiliary verb c. a possessive noun or possessive pronoun	a. I dance as well as my brother (dances) . b. I dance as well as he dances . I dance as well as he does . c. My computer is as old as Rita's . My computer is as old as hers .
3. In informal speaking, object pronouns are often used to complete comparisons with <i>as...as</i> .	Formal: He's as tall as I am . Informal: He's as tall as me .

8.5 Comparison with Less and Not As...As

Less + Adjective or Adverb + Than				
	<i>Less</i>	Adjective/Adverb	<i>Than</i>	
This phone is	less	expensive	than	that one.
This old fan works	less	efficiently	than	the new fan.

Not As + Adjective or Adverb + As				
	<i>Not As</i>	Adjective/Adverb	<i>As</i>	
This phone is	not as	expensive good	as	that one.
This old fan does	not work as	efficiently well	as	the new fan.

1. The opposite of <i>more</i> is <i>less</i> . <i>Not as...as</i> and <i>less</i> have the same meaning.	My old car was less efficient than my new car. My old car was not as efficient as my new car.
2. Use <i>not as...as</i> with one-syllable adjectives or adverbs.	My apartment is not as big as yours. Tom doesn't run as fast as Steven.
3. Use <i>less...than</i> or <i>not as...as</i> with adjectives or adverbs that have two or more syllables. The meaning is the same.	My son visits less frequently than my daughter. My son doesn't visit as frequently as my daughter.
4. Remember: If the comparison is clear, the second part of the comparison is not necessary.	The food at Joe's cafe isn't as good as the food at Chez Claude, but it's less expensive . The food at Joe's cafe is less expensive than the food at Chez Claude, but it isn't as good .

8.6 Superlative Adjectives and Adverbs

	Superlative Adjective	
The red car is	the nicest the most expensive	car in the parking lot.

	Superlative Adverb	
She runs	the fastest the most slowly	of all the players on the team.

1. Use a superlative adjective to compare three or more people, places, or things.	Ali is the tallest student in our class. Prague is the most beautiful city I've ever seen. What's the most interesting book you've ever read?
2. Use a superlative adverb to compare the action of three or more people or things.	Of all my friends, Alicia calls the most frequently . My red shoes fit the most comfortably of all my shoes.
3. Add <i>-est</i> to the end of most one-syllable adjectives or adverbs to form the superlative.* Use <i>the</i> before superlative adjectives. It is not as common before adverbs.	Adjective: I bought the longest couch in the store. Adverb: Steve works hardest of all the students.
4. Use <i>the most</i> before most adjectives that have two or more syllables and adverbs ending in <i>-ly</i> .	Maria is the most careful climber of the group. The Grand Canyon is the most amazing sight I've ever seen. Of all the girls, Brenda sings the most beautifully .
5. For some two-syllable adjectives and adverbs, either <i>-est</i> or <i>the most</i> can be used to form the superlative.	stupid → the stupidest / the most stupid cruel → the cruelest / the most cruel
6. Some superlatives are irregular.	good/well → the best bad/badly → the worst

8.7 More on Superlative Adjectives and Adverbs

1. The opposite of <i>the most</i> is <i>the least</i> .	This is the least expensive phone in the store. All the other phones cost a lot more. She drives the least carefully of all my friends. All my other friends drive much more carefully.
2. A prepositional phrase with <i>in</i> or <i>of</i> is often used to complete a superlative.	The Nile is the longest river in the world . This hat is the prettiest of the three .
3. Remember: If the comparison is clear, it is not necessary to complete it.	This sentence is the longest . She won because she ran the fastest .
4. <i>One of the</i> often comes before a superlative adjective. The superlative adjective is followed by a plural noun.	China is one of the biggest countries in the world.