

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Adapted from N. Frigolé

COMPARATIVES

SUPERLATIVES

One
syllable
adjectives

adjective + -er (+ than)

Barcelona is bigger than Girona

A car is faster than a bike

the adjective + -est

Barcelona is the biggest city in Catalonia

Planes are the fastest means of transport

Two or
more syllable
adjectives/
adverbs

more + adjective (+ than)

A motorbike is more expensive than a bike

Chinese is more difficult than English

the most + adjective

This is the most comfortable chair
I've ever tried.

Susan is the most intelligent girl in the
class.

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

Adjective/adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Good/well	Better (than)	The best
Bad/badly	Worse (than)	The worst
Far	Farther (<i>lluny</i>)/ Further (<i>lluny</i> + additional) (than)	The farthest/the furthest (<i>el més llunyà / el més llunyà + el que més pots afegir</i>)

- 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 exercicis 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 aprens.*)

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** *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!

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

ANSWER KEY

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://elt.oup.com/student/solutions/preint/grammar/grammar_04_012e?cc=global&selLanguage=en

<https://agendaweb.org/grammar/comparative-superlative-exercises.html>

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