

## COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

We use comparative and superlative adjectives when we want to compare and contrast things.

### \* One syllable adjectives

\* You make the comparative and superlative of one-syllable adjectives ending in **e** adding **-r** and **-st**.

    nice = **nicer**, the **nicest**

\* You make the comparative and superlative of other one-syllable adjectives by adding **-er** and **-est**.

    fast = **faster**, the **fastest**

    short = **shorter**, the **shortest**

\* You need to double the last letter of adjectives that end in **one vowel + one consonant**, then add **-er** and **-est**.

    hot = **hotter**, the **hottest**

    thin = **thinner**, the **thinnest**

### \* Two syllable adjectives

\* You make the comparative and superlative of two syllable adjectives ending in **y** by changing **y** to **-i** and adding **-er** and **-est**.

    pretty = **prettier**, the **prettiest**

    busy = **busier**, the **busiest**

    tasty = **tastier**, the **tastiest**

\* Some adjectives can make the comparative and superlative adding **-er**, **-est** or adding **more**, **the most** before the adjective.

    narrow = **narrower**, the **narrowest**

**more narrow**, **the most narrow**

    clever = **cleverer**, the **cleverest**

**more clever**, **the most clever**

    common = **commoner**, the **commonest**

**more common**, **the most common**

    cruel, gentle, pleasant, polite, quiet, simple, stupid, tired

\* Adjectives ending in **-ful**, **-less**, **-ing**, **-ed** and **many other adjectives** make the comparative and superlative adding **more** and **the most** before the adjective.

    careful = **more careful**, **the most careful**

    hopeless = **more hopeless**, **the most hopeless**

boring = **more** boring, **the most** boring  
surprised = **more** surprised, **the most** surprised  
afraid = **more** afraid, **the most** afraid  
famous = **more** famous, **the most** famous

\* Three syllable adjectives and more.

\* **Adjectives** with **more than two syllables** make the comparative and superlative adding **more** and **the most** before the adjective.  
interesting = **more** interesting, **the most** interesting  
expensive = **more** expensive, **the most** expensive  
intelligent = **more** intelligent, **the most** intelligent

\* Irregular

\* Some adjectives have an irregular comparative and superlative form

good = better, the best	bad = worse, the worst
much / many = more, the most	little = less, the least
far = further, the furthest	old = elder, the eldest (only for people in the same family)

Note

\* We use **than** after a comparative adjective and **the** before a superlative adjective.

You are taller **than** me.  
John is **the** shortest in the class

\* We put the comparative and superlative adjective **before the noun**.

The elephant is **the biggest** **land animal**.

\* We use **in** or **of** after a superlative. We use **in** with **places** and with **groups of people**: the world, the team, the class ...

It's the most expensive hotel **in** **Oxford**.  
Alice is the best student **in** **the class**.  
Who is the best player **in** **the team**?  
August is the hottest month **of** the year.