
The rules to form comparatives and superlatives

Comparatives	Superlatives
Comparatives are used to compare two things or two people: <i>Alan is taller than John.</i>	Superlatives are used to compare more than two things or two people. Superlative sentences usually use 'the': <i>Alan is the tallest.</i>

1. A short adjective ending in a silent 'e' Eg: nice

- Comparative — add 'r' — nicer
- Superlative — add 'st' — nicest

2. A short adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant. Eg: big

- Comparative — the consonant is doubled and 'er' is added — bigger
- Superlative — the consonant is doubled and 'est' is added — biggest

3. A short adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel (or long vowels). Eg: high, cheap, soft.

- Comparative — 'er' is added — higher, cheaper, softer.
- Superlative — 'est' is added — highest, cheapest, softest.

4. A short adjective ending in 'y'. Eg: happy

- Comparative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added — happier
- Superlative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'est' is added — happiest

5. Long adjective. Eg: exciting

- Comparative — more + the adjective + than — more exciting than
- Superlative — the most + the adjective — the most exciting

Examples:

- The Nile River is longer and more famous than the Thames.
- Egypt is much hotter than Sweden.
- Everest is the highest mountain in the world.

- This is one of the most exciting films I have ever seen.

Irregular comparatives and superlatives

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
bad	worse	worst
far(distance)	Farther than	The farthest
far(extent)	Further than	The furthest
Good Well	Better than Better than	The best The best
little few	Less than Less than	The least The least
Many much	More than More than	The most The most

Similarities:

To express similarities or differences use the following structure:

... as + *adjective* + as ... (similarities)
 ...not + *adjectives* + as ... (differences)

Examples:

- Mike is as *intelligent* as Nancy.
- Larry is as *popular* as Oprah.

Activity 1: Put the adjectives between brackets in the correct form

1. My brother has a (tidy) room than me.
2. Australia is (big) than England.
3. I'm (good) now than yesterday.
4. She's got (little) money than you, but she doesn't care.
5. He thinks Chinese is (difficult) language in the world
6. Valencia played (bad) than Real Madrid yesterday.
7. Cats are not (intelligent) as dogs.
8. Show me (good) restaurant downtown.

9. The desert is (hot) place in Africa.
10. Who is (talkative) person in your family?

Activity 2: complete the table with comparatives and superlatives.

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
Talented		
Pretty		
Safe		
Cheap		
Young		
Many		
Expensive		
Heavy		
Few		

Activity 3: do comparatives or superlatives.

- My sister thinks she's (beautiful) than me, but I don't agree
- Avatar* is probably (boring) film I've seen!
- What is (wet) month of the year in England?
- Do you think the *Harry Potter* films are (interesting) than the books?
- Who is (powerful) person in your country?
- I think *Men in Black 1* was (funny) than *Men in Black 3*.
- Is Angelina Jolie (old) than Sandra Bullock?
- John is (nice) person that I know.

Activity 4: Use either as ... as or not as ... as in the sentences below.

- The blue car is the red car. (*fast*)
- Peter is Fred. (*not/tall*)
- The violin is the cello. (*not/low*)
- This copy is the other one. (*bad*)
- Oliver is Peter. (*optimistic*)
- Today it's yesterday. (*not/windy*)

7. The tomato soup was the mushroom soup. (*delicious*)
8. Grapefruit juice is lemonade. (*not/sweet*)
9. Nick is Kevin. (*brave*)
10. Silver is gold. (*not/heavy*)

Activity 5: write coherent sentences using comparatives and superlatives.

- My house / small/ yours.
- Your grade / bad / mine.
- The Pacific Ocean / deep / the Arctic Ocean.
- You / polite .
- My brother / tall / I am, but he / old / too.
- A rose / beautiful / a daisy.
- The Earth / large / the moon.
- A pint / less / a quart.
- Learning Japanese /difficult.
- It / far/ from New York to Austin / it is from New York to Nashville.

Activity 6:

Write your own sentences using comparatives, superlatives and similarities.

Note: use new adjectives different from those used in the previous exercises.