COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

MAKING COMPARISONS

We use the comparative form of adjectives or adverbs to make comparisons between two:

- people
- places
- things

Structure: Subject + BE + comparative form of the adjective/adverb + than + object.

Examples:

Jenny is taller than Sarah.

Gabriel is older than Leo.

Spanish is easier than Mandarin.

This book is more interesting than that book.

My current boss is more demanding than my former boss.

tall - taller

old - older

easy - easier

interesting - more interesting

demanding - more demanding

Category 1:

One-syllable adjectives and two-syllable adjectives that end in -Y, add -ER to the end of the adjectives

young - younger	old - older	late – later
short - shorter	big - bigger	small – smaller
tall - taller	cold - colder	strong - stronger

Rule 1:

With adjectives that end in a consonant - vowel - consonant, you need to double the final consonant

hot - hotter

big - bigger

wet - wetter

slim - slimmer

Pule 2

Adjectives that already end in -E, add -R

late - later

cute - cuter

wise - wiser



COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

Two-syllable adjectives that end in -Y, take away the "Y" and add -IER

easy – easier happy – happier funny – funnier angry – angrier crazy – crazier busy – busier

Category 2:

Two-syllable adjectives that don't end in -Y and adjectives with three syllables or more, add "more" before the adjective

more crowded more generous more narrow more interesting more gentle more demanding

Quiz Time!

What is the comparative form of...

-long -easy
-small -silly
-big -difficult
-cute -interesting

Answers: longer, smaller, bigger, cuter, easier, sillier, more difficult, more interesting

USING SUPERLATIVES

We use the superlative form to make comparisons between one person and all the rest

Structure: Subject + BE + THE + superlative form of the adjective/adverb + ever/of/in (the category).

Examples:

Tom is the tallest boy in his class.

Carla is the fastest runner on the soccer team.

This is the easiest test I've ever taken.

Marco is the funniest guy I know.

White water rafting is the most exciting thing I've ever done.

Lady Gaga is the most talented musician in the world.

Category 1:

One-syllable adjectives and two-syllable adjectives that end in -Y add -EST to the end of the adjectives

young – youngest old – oldest late – latest short – shortest big – biggest small – smallest tall – tallest cold – coldest strong – strongest



COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

Rule 1:

With Consonant-Vowel-Consonant adjectives, double the final consonant

hot – hottest big – biggest wet – wettest slim – slimmest

Rule 2:

Adjectives that already end in -E, add -ST

late - latest cute - cutest wise - wisest nice - nicest

Two-syllable adjectives that end in -Y, take away the "Y" and add -IEST

easy – easiest happy – happiest funny – funniest angry – angriest crazy – craziest busy – busiest

Category 2:

Two-syllable adjectives that don't end in -Y and adjectives with three syllables or more, add "most" before the adjective

most crowded most generous most narrow most interesting most gentle most demanding

Quiz Time!

What is the superlative form of...

-long -easy
-small -silly
-big -difficult
-cute -interesting

Answers: longest, smallest, biggest, cutest, easiest, silliest, most difficult, most interesting



COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

CATEGORY 1

- ADJECTIVES THAT HAVE ONLY 1 SYLLABLE -> ADD -ER/-EST
- ADJECTIVES THAT HAVE 2 SYLLABLES AND END IN -Y -> REMOVE THE Y AND ADD -IER/IEST

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE FORM	SUPERLATIVE FORM
tall	taller	tallest
weak	weaker	weakest
big	bigger	biggest
strong	stronger	strongest
cold	colder	coldest
hot	hotter	hottest
warm	warmer	warmest
rich	richer	richest
poor	poorer	poorest
happy	happier	happiest
easy	easier	easiest
funny	funnier	funniest
skinny	skinnier	skinniest
crazy	crazier	craziest

EXAMPLES USING THE COMPARATIVE

- 1. Salvador is hotter than Porto Alegre.
- 2. Jupiter is colder than Earth.
- 3. January is a warmer month than April.
- 4. Spanish is easier than Japanese.
- 5. Billy is happier than Bobby.

EXAMPLES USING THE SUPERLATIVE

- 1. Russia is the largest country in the world.
- 2. Central African Republic is the poorest country in the world.
- 3. Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system.
- 4. Jacob is the funniest boy in the class.
- 5. Katie is the happiest girl I know.





COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

CATEGORY 2

- ADJECTIVES THAT HAVE 2 SYLLABLES AND DO NOT END IN -Y -> MORE/MOST + ADJECTIVE
- · ADJECTIVES THAT HAVE 3 OR MORE SYLLABLES -> MORE/MOST + ADJECTIVE

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE FORM	SUPERLATIVE FORM
tired	more tired	most tired
crowded	more crowded	most crowded
boring	more boring	most boring
careful	more careful	most careful
interesting	more interesting	most interesting
exciting	more exciting	most exciting
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
challenging	more challenging	most challenging
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
talented	more talented	most talented

EXAMPLES USING THE COMPARATIVE

- 1. The red line was more crowded than the blue line this morning.
- 2. My history class is more boring than my physics class.
- 3. Skydiving is more exciting than bungee jumping.
- 4. Arabic is more challenging than French.
- 5. Crossfit is more difficult than Zumba

EXAMPLES USING THE SUPERLATIVE

- 1. This vacation is the most relaxing of all.
- 2. Teaching is the most rewarding profession.
- 3. Gabriel is the most talented guy I know.
- 4. White water rafting is the most exciting thing I've ever done.
- 5. Barcelona is the most beautiful city that I've seen.





COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

EXCEPTIONS				
ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE FORM	SUPERLATIVE FORM		
good	better	best		
bad	worse	worst		
far	further	farthest		
*stupid	more stupid/stupider	most stupid/stupidest		
*fun	more fun	most fun		

^{*}funner and funnest are also used, but "more fun" and "most fun" is more grammatically correct. ;)

EXAMPLES

- 1. Shelly is better than Anna at skiing.
- 2. Shelly is worse than Anna at dancing.
- 3. Simone Biles is the best gymnast in the world.
- 4. Today was the worst day ever.
- 5. English is more fun than German.

