

COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

- To compare two "equal" things or people, we use:

as + adjective + as	He is as tall as his father
---------------------	-----------------------------

- A short adjective (cheap) and a long adjective (expensive) form their comparative and superlative in different ways:

	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Short word (cheap)	cheaper	the cheapest
Long word (expensive)	more expensive	the most expensive

- SHORT AND LONG ADJECTIVES**

- One-syllable adjectives (small, nice) have -er/-est (*smaller*)
But we use more/most before words ending in -ed → *more tired*
- Two-syllable adjectives

with -er/-est	<i>happy → happier</i> adjectives ending in <u>consonant + y</u> happy, pretty, heavy...
with -er/-est or more/most	narrow, common, pleasant, quiet, polite, clever, simple, gentle, cruel, stupid
with more/most	adjectives ending in: -ful → <i>more useful</i> -less → <i>more hopeless</i> -ing → <i>more boring</i> -ed → <i>more bored</i> -ish → <i>more foolish</i> others: correct, exact, certain, normal, frequent, recent, famous, modern, afraid, eager ...

- Three-syllable adjectives and longer ones have more/most:
Those girls are the most talkative of this class.

- SPELLING**

There are some special spelling rules for the -er and -est endings:

-e → er/est	<i>large → larger</i>
-consonant + y → ier/iest	<i>pretty → prettier</i>
-adjectives ending in CONS+VOWEL+CONS	<i>big → bigger</i>

- IRREGULAR FORMS**

Good/well	→ better	→ the best
Bad/badly	→ worse	→ the worst
Far	→ farther/further	→ the farthest/the furthest
Much/many	→ more	→ the most
Little	→ less	→ the least
Old	→ older/elder	→ the oldest/the eldest
(elder and the eldest are used with people in the same family)		

• **COMPARING QUANTITIES**

We use more/most and their opposites less/the least (for uncountable words) or fewer/the fewest (for countable words) to compare quantities.

I'm very busy these days. I have less free time than last year.

There are fewer cars in this town than in Zaragoza.

COMPARATIVE	SUPERIORITY	He looks older than you
	EQUALITY	He looks as old as you
	INFERIORITY	* He looks less old than you He does not look as old as you
SUPERLATIVE	He is the oldest of this class → group He is the oldest in Aragón → place	

• **OTHER STRUCTURES WITH THE COMPARATIVE**

- **FASTER AND FASTER**

Used to say that something is increasing all the time:

Petrol goes up and up. It is more and more expensive.

- **THE FASTER THE BETTER**

Used to say that a change in one thing goes with a change in another.

The sooner, the better

The younger the students, the louder they are.

• **TROUBLE SPOTS**

→ Watch your spelling: *more that x > more than*

→ Don't combine two ways of forming comparisons: *the more bigger x*

• **EXERCISE 1**

Put the following adjectives in the correct column. Some adjectives can go in both categories.

beautiful	deep	handsome	loving	sensitive
careful	expensive	high	lucky	serious
cheap	fat	hollow	modern	shallow
comfortable	friendly	late	old	tragic
common	funny	lovely	old-fashioned	young
-ER THAN			MORE THAN	

WHO'S WHO?

Who has the longest hair?

Who is the tallest student?

Who is the youngest student?

Who studies the hardest?

Who has the biggest family?

Who's known their best friend the longest?

Who's been keeping their pet the longest?

Who's been doing their hobby the longest?

Who's been playing a favourite sport the longest?

Who has been going to school the longest?

Who has been married the longest?

Who can speak the most languages?

Who has been studying English the longest?

Who has had the longest hair?

Who has been in the worst accident?

Who has met the most famous person?

Who has been to the biggest city?

Who has been to the most cities?

Who has spent the least money this week?