

## Comparatives and superlatives of adjectives

### I. Comparatives

#### 1. Comparatives of equality :

A. Comparative of positive equality: we use as + adjective + as.

E.g. Your house is as big as your neighbour's.

E.g. This exercise is as difficult as the one we did yesterday.

B. Comparative of negative equality: we use not + as / so + adjective + as.

E.g. The Thames is not as/so long as the Nile. (= The Nile is longer than the Thames).

2. Comparatives of superiority: to compare two things, two animals, two people...etc, we use the following comparative forms : short adjective + er + than / more + long adjective + than.

A. We use adjective + er + than in the following cases:

a. Adjectives of one syllable:

E.g. The Nile is longer than the Thames.

b. Adjectives ending with « y », « w » or « le »:

E.g. My bag is heavier than yours.

E.g. This street is narrower than that one over there.

#### Notes :

- In adjectives with one syllable ending with a consonant + a vowel + a consonant (e.g. hot or big), we double the final consonant (hotter, bigger).
- We add « er » to adjectives ending with « w » and « y » even if they have more than one syllable. (heavier/ narrower).
- We transform « y » into « i » in adjectives ending in « y » (prettier/happier/heavier).
- We can use either adjective + er or more + adjective + than with adjectives ending with « le ». E.g. Your teacher is gentler than mine. (=your teacher is more gentle than mine).
- We use more + adjective + than with adjectives which have more than one syllable. E.g. A meal in a restaurant is more expensive than a sandwich.

3. Comparatives of inferiority: we use less + adjective + than with all adjectives.

A sandwich is less expensive than a meal in a restaurant.

II. Superlatives : to compare between more than two things, two animals or two people...etc, we use the following superlative forms: the + short adjective+est / the + most or least + long adjective.

#### 1. Superlatives of superiority:

a. Ahmed is 1.80      b. Ali is 1.60      c. Karim is 1.50

➤ Ahmed is the tallest (Short adjective).

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- Karim is the smallest of them all (Short adjective).

**The + adjective + -est + in/ of:**

**E.g.** I have three brothers; I'm the oldest and the tallest of them all (Short adjectives).

- a.** The car costs 400.000 AD    **b.** The bicycle costs 8000 AD    **c.** The toy costs 400 AD.
- The car is the most expensive (Long adjective / superiority).
  - The toy is the least expensive (Long adjective / inferiority).

**The most + adjective + in/ of:**    **E.g.** I have five friends; I'm the most intelligent of them (Long adjective).

### 2. Superlatives of inferiority:

**The least + adjective + in/ of:**    **E.g.** The least careful driver in my family is my father (Long adjective).

### III. Irregular comparatives and superlatives of adjectives:

<i>Adjectives</i>	<i>Comparative form</i>	<i>Superlative form</i>
Good	Better than	The best
Bad	Worse than	The worst
Far	Farther/ Further than	The farthest/ The furthest
Old	Older/ Elder than	The oldest/ The eldest
Many/ Much/ A lot of	More than	The most
Little	Less than	The least

**Activity 01:** choose the correct comparative or superlative to fill in the gaps.

- a.** An aeroplane travels \_\_\_\_\_ than a train.
  - a) more faster
  - b) faster
- b.** This course is \_\_\_\_\_ than the one I was doing before.
  - b) gooder
  - b) better
- c.** I was \_\_\_\_\_ when I was living in the countryside. Life in the town is too busy.
  - a) happyer
  - b) happier
- d.** Which is the \_\_\_\_\_ building in the world?
  - a) tallest
  - b) taller
- e.** There is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ than losing your passport.
  - a) worse
  - b) badder

**Activity 02:** use the adjectives between brackets to form meaningful sentences.

- a.** He is the \_\_\_\_\_ man I've ever met (funny).
- b.** This car is \_\_\_\_\_ than that one (expensive).
- c.** Einstein is as \_\_\_\_\_ as Darwin (famous).
- d.** Brabara is \_\_\_\_\_ than Sara (intelligent).
- e.** She is the \_\_\_\_\_ driver I have ever seen (slow).