

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 neighbor'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, 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 gentler 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..., 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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➤ Yanis 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 aero plane 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