

Comparative Adjectives

To compare two things, we use a comparative adjective e.g. **tall** ➔ **taller**.



Here's a photo of three giraffes.

The tallest giraffe is Stevie. Spotty and Allie are shorter than Stevie and Allie is shorter than Spotty.

Exercise 1:

Answer these questions.

Which giraffe is a.?

Which giraffe is b.?

Which giraffe is c.?

Short adjectives (e.g. *fat, tall*) take **-er**. *tall* ➔ *taller*.

Here is a list of some short adjectives (adjectives that have one syllable) that take **-er**.

<i>tall</i>	<i>big*</i>	<i>cold</i>	<i>cheap</i>	<i>old</i>	<i>large**</i>
<i>rare</i>	<i>rich</i>	<i>poor</i>	<i>young</i>	<i>fat*</i>	

* Some consonants are doubled. *big* ➔ *bigger*, *fat* ➔ *fatter*

** e is not doubled. *large* ➔ *larger*.

Longer adjectives (adjectives that have three or more syllables) (e.g. *expensive, comfortable*) take **more**.

Here is a list of some longer adjectives (adjectives that have three or more syllables) that take **more**.

<i>expensive</i>	<i>comfortable</i>	<i>dangerous</i>	<i>frightening</i>
<i>beautiful</i>	<i>powerful</i>	<i>fashionable</i>	

Most adjectives with two syllables take **more** e.g. *more careful, more hopeful* but some two-syllable adjectives do not.

Here are some two-syllable adjectives that take **more**.

<i>upset</i>	<i>modern</i>	<i>boring</i>	<i>famous</i>
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Here are two-syllable adjectives that take **-er**. *narrow, simple** e is not doubled. *simple* ➔ *simpler*

Most adjectives ending in **y** have two syllables and end in **-ier** e.g. *happy* ➔ *happier*, *funny* ➔ *funnier*

Adjectives ending in **ly** take **-ier** e.g. *silly* ➔ *sillier*.

We use a comparative **adjective + than** to say **that something is more X**. *Spotty is taller than Allie*.

We use **not + as and an adjective** to say **something isn't as X as something**. *Allie is not as tall as Spotty*.

A few adjectives are irregular (they do not follow the same rules as other adjectives for comparative or superlative forms.)

good ➔ *better*, *bad* ➔ *worse*

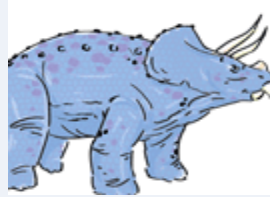
Exercise 2:

Make these adjectives into a comparative adjective.

1. A T. Rex dinosaur was probably (fierce) than a triceratops dinosaur.

2. A brontosaurus was (tall) than a T.Rex dinosaur.

3. A triceratops was probably (good) at defending itself than a brontosaurus.



Exercise 2:

Make each adjective in the brackets into a comparative adjective.

- The Alsatian dog is (intelligent) than a spaniel.
- The poodle is (fluffy) than the other two dogs.
- The Alsatian is (powerful) than most other dogs.
- The spaniel is (popular) with families than most other dogs.
- The Alsatian is (fast) than other dogs.



Superlative Adjectives

Sometimes we want to say that something is **the most**. When we do this, we use a superlative adjective e.g. **the coldest**.

Exercise 3:

Answer these questions about the fruit:

- Which fruit in group 1 do you think is the most expensive to buy?
- Which fruit in group 1 do you think is the juiciest?
- Which fruit in group 2 do you think is the sourest?
- Which fruit in group 2 do you think is the healthiest?
- Which fruit in group 3 do you think is the most useful?
- Which fruit in group 3 do you think grows in the coldest places?



Short adjectives (e.g. *fat*, *tall*) take **the -est**. *tall* → *the tallest*.

Here is a list of short adjectives (adjectives that have one syllable) that take the **-est**.

tall big cold old large** rare rich poor young fat* wet*

* Some consonants are doubled. *big* → *the biggest*, *fat* → *the fattest*. ** e is not doubled. *larger* → *the largest*.

Long adjectives (adjectives that have three or more syllables) (e.g. *expensive*, *comfortable*) take **the most**.
expensive → *the most expensive*.

Here is a list of longer adjectives (adjectives that have three or more syllables) that take **the most**.

expensive comfortable dangerous frightening beautiful powerful fashionable

Most adjectives with two syllables take **the most** e.g. *careful*, *hopeful* but some take **-est**.

Here are some two-syllable adjectives that take **the most**.

upset modern boring

Here are some two-syllable adjectives that take the **-est**.

*narrow naughty simple** *e is not doubled. *simple* → *simplest*

Most adjectives ending in **y** have two syllables, and they end in **the -iest** e.g. *happy* → *the happiest*, *funny* → *the funniest*.

Adjectives ending **-ly** take the **-iest**. e.g. *lovely* → *the loveliest*.

Superlative forms of irregular adjectives: *good* → *best* *bad* → *worst*

Exercise 4:

Make each adjective in the brackets into a superlative adjective.



These are my three good friends, Suzy, Jana and Kate.

Suzy is the clever one. My math teacher thinks she is the 1. (brainless) student in the class and she's always winning prizes. She usually asks the 2. (intelligent) questions.

Jana is the 3. (dreamy) of my friends. She is often thinking about other things and she writes the 4. (lovely) stories and poems.

Kate is the 5. (cheerful) in my group. She tells the 6. (funny) jokes and says the 7. (silly) things. She sends me the 8. (crazy) text messages.

Answer Key:

Exercise 1: a. Allie, b. Spotty, C. Stevie. Exercise 2: 1. fiercer, 2. taller, 3. better, 4. more intelligent, 5. fluffier, 6. more powerful, 7. more popular, 8. faster.

Exercise 3: Answers will vary. Exercise 4: 1. brainiest, 2. most intelligent, 3. dreamiest, 4. loveliest, 5. most cheerful, 6. funniest, 7. silliest, 8. craziest.

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