

**COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES  
(Beginner - Intermediate)**

We use the '**comparative**' when we compare two things.

We use the '**superlative**' when we speak about something of the highest order, quality or degree.

**SHORT ADJECTIVES (1 – 2 SYLLABLES)**

big, small, large, hot, nice, cheap, long, tall...	<b>Comparative: -ER + THAN</b>	<b>Superlative: THE + -EST</b>
France is <b>big</b> .	The USA is <b>bigger than</b> France.	Russia is <b>the biggest</b> country in the world.
A <i>Honda Civic</i> is <b>small</b> .	A Mini Cooper is <b>smaller than</b> a Honda Civic.	A Smart Car is <b>the smallest</b> .
A cheeseburger is <b>large</b> .	A double cheeseburger is <b>larger than</b> a cheeseburger.	A Big Mac is <b>the largest</b> item on the menu.
<p><b>**EXCEPTIONS:</b></p> <p>1. If a word ends with a <b>consonant-vowel-consonant</b>, double the last letter (except if the word ends with a <b>w, x, or z</b>). FOR EXAMPLE: Big = Bigger, Biggest, Small = Smaller, Smallest, Hot = Hotter, Hottest.</p> <p>2. If the adjective ends in "e", just add "r" or 'st'. FOR EXAMPLE: Large = Larger, Largest, Nice = Nicer, Nicest</p>		

**LONG ADJECTIVES (2 OR MORE SYLLABLES) NOT ENDING IN 'Y':**

fa/mous ex/pen/sive im/por/tant	<b>Comparative: MORE + THAN</b>	<b>Superlative: THE + MOST.</b>
Berlusconi is <b>famous</b> .	Michael Jackson is <b>more famous than</b> Berlusconi.	Marilyn Monroe was <b>the most famous</b> person in the 1960's.
A car is <b>expensive</b> .	A BMW is <b>more expensive than</b> a Honda.	A Ferrari is <b>the most expensive</b> car in the world.
A mayor is <b>important</b> .	A senator is <b>more important than</b> a mayor in the USA.	The president is <b>the most important</b> person in the USA.
<p><b>**EXCEPTIONS:</b></p> <p>1. If a word ends with a <b>y</b>, replace it with <b>-ier</b> in the comparative form, and <b>-iest</b> in the superlative form. FOR EXAMPLE: Pretty = Prettier, Prettiest Easy = Easier, Easiest</p>		

**COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES (continued)**

**COMMON EXCEPTIONS**

Adjectives:	Comparative:	Superlative:
<b>Good:</b> My test score is <b>good</b> .	Her test score is <b>better than</b> mine.	Ruth's test score is <b>the best</b> in the class.
<b>Bad:</b> The weather is <b>bad</b> .	Yesterday, the weather was <b>worse than</b> today.	Two days ago, the weather was <b>the worst</b> .
<b>A little</b>	<b>Less than</b>	<b>The least</b>
<b>Many</b>	<b>More than</b>	<b>The most</b>
<b>Far</b>	<b>Further than / Farther than</b>	<b>The furthest / The farthest</b>

**COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES ~ Exercises and Practice**

Complete the sentences with the most appropriate comparative or superlative phrase of the adjective given.

- Mary is \_\_\_\_\_ (lazy) student in the class.
- Rob's apartment is \_\_\_\_\_ (nice) mine.
- Elephants are \_\_\_\_\_ (fat) camels.
- Miami is \_\_\_\_\_ (superficial) city in the U.S.
- Kim is \_\_\_\_\_ (small) of all my friends.
- I think tornadoes are \_\_\_\_\_ (bad) hurricanes because they occur more often and are much more unpredictable.
- Laura speaks English \_\_\_\_\_ (good) Susan.