

# comparative and superlative adjectives

## FORMING REGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Forming comparatives and superlatives is easy. The form depends on the **number of syllables** in the original adjective.

### ONE SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

Add **-er** for the comparative and **-est** for the superlative. If the adjective has a **consonant + single vowel + consonant** spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	tallest
fat	fatter	fattest
big	bigger	biggest
sad	sadder	saddest

### TWO SYLLABLES

Adjectives with two syllables can form the comparative either by adding **-er** or by preceeding the adjective with *more*. These adjectives form the superlative either by adding **-est** or by preceeding the adjective with *most*. In many cases, both forms are used, although one usage will be more common than the other. If you are not sure whether a two-syllable adjective can take a comparative or superlative ending, play it safe and

use *more* and *most* instead. For adjectives ending in *y*, change the *y* to an *i* before adding the ending.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
simple	simpler	simplest
busy	busier	busiest
tilted	more tilted	most tilted
tangled	more tangled	most tangled

### THREE OR MORE SYLLABLES

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting *more* in front of the adjective, and the superlative by putting *most* in front.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
important	more important	most important
expensive	more expensive	most expensive

### IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	further / farther	furthest / farthest

***We use comparative adjectives to describe people and things:***

***This car is certainly better but it's much more expensive.***

***I'm feeling happier now.***

***We need a bigger garden***

***We use than when we want to compare one thing with another:***

***She is two years older than me.***

***New York is much bigger than Boston.***

***He is a better player than Ronaldo.***

***France is a bigger country than Britain.***

***When we want to describe how something or someone changes we can use two comparatives with and:***

***The balloon got bigger and bigger.***

***Everything is getting more and more expensive.***

***Grandfather is looking older and older.***

***We often use the with comparative adjectives to show that one thing depends on another:***

***When you drive faster it is more dangerous  
> The faster you drive, the more dangerous it is.  
When they climbed higher it got colder  
> The higher they climbed, the colder it got.***

### ***Superlative adjectives:***

***We use the with a superlative:***

***It was the happiest day of my life.***

***Everest is the highest mountain in the world.***

***That's the best film I have seen this year.***