ADJECTIVES (6)
Comparatives and Superlatives (03)

In context
3 min

What is the comparative?

The chicken is **bigger than** the frog.

What is the superlative?

The cow is **the biggest**.
### Comparatives and Superlatives

**12 min**

We use comparatives and superlatives to compare nouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Comparatives</strong></th>
<th><strong>Superlatives</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Use</strong></td>
<td>To compare 2 things and show the superiority, equality or inferiority of one of them</td>
<td>To compare more than 2 things and speak about extremes (the first, the last...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Superiority</strong></td>
<td><em>Short Adjectives:</em></td>
<td><em>Short Adjectives:</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(adj. + 'er') + than</td>
<td>the + (adj. + 'est')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The cat is <em>smaller than</em> the dog.</td>
<td>This is the <strong>smallest</strong> cookie!</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Long Adjectives:</em></td>
<td><em>Long Adjectives:</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more + adj. + than</td>
<td>the most + adj.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The book is <em>more interesting than</em> the movie.</td>
<td>Pat is the <strong>most intelligent</strong> in his class.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equality</strong></td>
<td>as + adj. + as</td>
<td>Does not exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joe is <em>as tall as</em> Lindsey.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inferiority</strong></td>
<td>less + adj. + than</td>
<td>the least + adj.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The shoes are <em>less expensive than</em> the dress.</td>
<td>The second point is the <strong>least important</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A short adjective is an adjective with one syllable or two syllables ending in -y, -ow, -le, -er.

**Examples:**
- pretty → prettier
- narrow → narrower
- gentle → gentler
- clever → cleverer

If the adjective ends with a single vowel and a consonant, this consonant is doubled for superiority.

**Example:**
- big → bigger
There are 3 important irregular adjectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Comparative of Superiority</th>
<th>Superlative of Superiority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>the worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>farther / further</td>
<td>the farthest / the furthest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Language Tip on Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives**

5 min

For 'good', 'bad', 'far', the irregular form is only for the superiority.

**Example:**
good → better than (superiority), as good as (equality), less good than (inferiority)

**Writing Exercise**

5 min

Complete the sentences with comparatives (+ superiority, = equality, - inferiority).

**Example:**
Jane is _________ Ann. (+ intelligent)

Jane is more intelligent than Ann.

1. Cats are _________ dogs. (+ independent)
2. Hilary is _________ her brother. (+ short)
3. The South of France is _________ the south of England. (+ sunny)
4. You are _________ him at math. (+ good)
5. The printer is _________ the copy machine. (= expensive)
6. This dessert is _________ the one I had yesterday. (= good)
7. The pyramids in Mexico are _________ the pyramids in Egypt. (= famous)
8. His second painting is _________ the first one. (- beautiful)
9. The movie was _________ I anticipated. (- bad)
10. Mr. Abbott is _________ his son. (- rich)
Writing Exercise
5 min
Complete the sentences with superlatives (+ superiority, - inferiority).
Example:
This is__________ meeting. (+ boring)
This is the most boring meeting.
1. Vince is ___________ student in his class. (+ tall)
2. This project seems___________. (+ good)
3. They live in ___________ city in the country. (+ polluted)
4. Our department has___________ manager in the company. (+ bad)
5. New York is ___________ city in the world. (+ exciting)
6. Kansas is ___________ state I have visited. (+ far)
7. Why did you chose___________ flowers? (- beautiful)
8. The first candidate was ___________. (- motivated)
9. I don’t want to choose ___________ solution. (- efficient)
10. I am _____________ in the group. (- tired)

Reading Exercise
5 min
Read these sentences to your teacher. Then, change them to use comparatives or superlatives.
Example:
Swiss chocolate is good.
Swiss chocolate is the best in the world.
1. My car looks nice.
2. Old habits are bad.
3. American movies are good.
4. Italian food is tasty.
5. The teacher is tired.

Speaking Exercise 5 min
Talk to your teacher about your past and new jobs or projects, using comparatives or superlatives.
Example: My first job was the least interesting. In my second job, I was more motivated. Now, I am in charge of bigger projects than before...
Speaking Exercise
5 min
Choose 1 topic below. Find 3 examples and compare them.
Topics: sports, movies, books, cars, video games, websites
Example:
3 sports: tennis, volleyball, basketball. For me, playing tennis is more intensive than playing basketball. Basketball is not as fun as volleyball. Volleyball is the best sport.

Watch the Video!
5 min
With this video lesson, you will review the rules about comparatives and superlatives.

Watch the video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aapO2Kpp2w&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

Watch it again and choose the correct answer:
1. If I am not sure which form to use, I should use:
   a. the 'er/est' form
   b. the 'more/most' form
   c. the adverb

2. Choose the correct statement:
   a. If an adjective has 1 syllable, I use the 'more/most' form.
   b. If an adjective has 2 or more syllables, I use the 'more/most' form.
   c. If an adjective has 3 or more syllables, I use the 'more/most' form.

3. Choose the correct statement:
   a. Some adjectives with 2 syllables use the 'er/est' form, others use the 'more/most' form.
   b. All adjectives with 2 syllables use the 'er/est' form.
   c. All adjectives with 2 syllables use the 'more/most' form.
Watch the Video!
5 min
With this travel video, you will practice adjectives and superlatives.

Watch the video:
http://www.5min.com/Video/Top-5-Travel-Destinations-of-the-United-States-407476776

Watch it again and complete the text with the correct adjectives and superlatives:
Hi, This is your host, Naomi. I'd like to show you the top 5 destinations of the United States. Number 5, Boston, one of ________________ cities of the United States. It has some of ________________ academic institutions and many quaint charming neighborhoods. Number 4, Los Angeles. See the ________________ Hollywood landmarks, shop alongside the rich and famous and hang out with the locals at pristine beaches. Number 3, Las Vegas. It's the entertainment capital of the world. On the famous strip, amidst the glitzy lights, you will find ________________ casinos, dining, shows, and nightlife. Number 2, San Francisco. The ________________ city is set in ________________ ________________ settings. World famous landmarks, scenic vistas and ________________ climate define San Francisco. And number 1, New York, among the world's ________________ cities. Visitors rave about its ________________ energy. Everyone should experience New York City in their lifetime. Keep watching our travel video series. See you next time.
Quiz
10 min

True or False?
1. There are a lot of irregular adjectives. true false
2. A short adjective is an adjective with one syllable or two syllables ending in -y, -ow, -le, -er. true false
3. If the adjective ends with a single vowel and a consonant, this consonant is doubled for superiority. true false
4. The irregular form of adjectives is for superiority and inferiority. true false

Underline the mistake and write the correct word.
Example: London is the better city for business. ➔ best
1. Italy is sunniest than England. ➔
2. Saving money is as useful than saving time. ➔
3. Ambition can become the stronger motivation. ➔
4. He looked tallest in the picture. ➔

Choose the correct answer:
1. I will wear __________ clothes in the winter. (more warm / warmer)
2. She will wear the __________ expensive dress at the bal. (more / most)
3. This is the __________ melodious song. (less / least)
4. The bed is __________ than the sofa! (worse / worst)