


COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

FORMING THE COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE

Number of syllables	Comparative	Superlative
one syllable	+ <i>-er</i>	+ <i>-est</i>
<i>tall</i>	<i>taller</i>	<i>tallest</i>
<p>one syllable with the spelling consonant + single vowel + consonant: double the final consonant:</p>		
<i>fat</i>	<i>fatter</i>	<i>fattest</i>
<i>big</i>	<i>bigger</i>	<i>biggest</i>
<i>sad</i>	<i>sadder</i>	<i>saddest</i>
		

Number of syllables	Comparative	Superlative
two syllables	+ -er OR more + adj	+ -est OR most + adj
<p>ending in: <i>-y, -ly, -ow</i></p> <p>ending in: <i>-le, -er or -ure</i></p> <p>these common adjectives - handsome, polite, pleasant, common, quiet</p>		
<i>happy</i>	<i>happier / more happy</i>	<i>happiest / most happy</i>
<i>yellow</i>	<i>yellower / more yellow</i>	<i>yellowest / most yellow</i>
<i>simple</i>	<i>simpler / more simple</i>	<i>simplest / most simple</i>
<i>tender</i>	<i>tenderer / more tender</i>	<i>tenderest / most tender</i>
<p>If you are not sure, use <i>MORE + OR MOST +</i></p> <p>Note: Adjectives ending in <i>'-y</i> like <i>happy, pretty, busy, sunny, lucky</i> etc.: replace the <i>-y</i> with <i>-ier</i> or <i>-iest</i> in the comparative and superlative form</p>		
<i>busy</i>	<i>busier</i>	<i>busiest</i>
Number of syllables	Comparative	Superlative
three syllables	more + adj	most + adj

or more		
<i>important</i>	<i>more important</i>	<i>most important</i>
<i>expensive</i>	<i>more expensive</i>	<i>most expensive</i>

Examples:

- a. A cat is *fast*, a tiger is *faster* but a cheetah is *the fastest*
- b. A car is *heavy*, a truck is *heavier*, but a train is *the heaviest*
- c. A park bench is *comfortable*, a restaurant chair is *more comfortable*, but a sofa is the *most comfortable*

IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

These adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms:

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

THE + SUPERLATIVE

'*the*' is placed before the superlative:

For example: He is *the richest* man in the world.

COMPARATIVE + THAN

To compare the difference between two people, things or events.

Examples:

- Mt. Everest is *higher than* Mt. Blanc.
- Thailand is *sunnier than* Norway.
- A car is *more expensive than* a bicycle.
- Albert is *more intelligent than* Arthur

AS + ADJECTIVE + AS

To compare people, places, events or things, when there is **no difference**, use

as + adjective + as

- Peter is 24 years old. John is 24 years old. Peter is *as old as* John.

More examples:

- Moscow is *as cold as* St. Petersburg in the winter.

- Ramona is *as happy as* Raphael.
- Einstein is *as famous as* Darwin.
- A tiger is *as dangerous as* a lion.

NOT AS + ADJECTIVE + AS

Difference can also be shown by using **not so/as ...as**:

- Mont Blanc is *not as high as* Mount Everest
- Norway is *not as sunny as* Thailand
- A bicycle is *not as expensive as* a car
- Arthur is *not as intelligent as* Albert

COMPARISONS OF QUANTITY

To show difference: *more, less, fewer + than*

To show no difference: *as much as, as many as, as few as, as little as*

To show difference: *more, less, fewer + than*

Examples:

With **countable** nouns: *more / fewer*

- Eloise has *more* children *than* Chantal.

- Chantal has *fewer* children *than* Eloise.
- There are *fewer* dogs in Cardiff *than* in Bristol
- I have visited *fewer* countries *than* my friend has.
- He has read *fewer* books *than* she has.

With **uncountable** nouns: *more* / *less*

- Eloise has *more* money *than* Chantal.
- Chantal has *less* money *than* Eloise.
- I spend *less* time on homework *than* you do.
- Cats drink *less* water *than* dogs.
- This new dictionary gives *more* information *than* the old one.

So, the rule is:

MORE + nouns that are **countable** or **uncountable**

FEWER + **countable** nouns

LESS + **uncountable** nouns

To show **no difference**: *as much as*, *as many as*, *as few as*, *as little as*

- *as many as* / *as few as* + **countable** nouns
- *as much as* / *as little as* + **uncountable** nouns

Examples:

With countable nouns:

- They have ***as many*** children ***as*** us.
- We have ***as many*** customers ***as*** them.
- Tom has ***as few*** books ***as*** Jane.
- There are ***as few*** houses in his village ***as*** in mine.
- You know ***as many*** people ***as*** I do.
- I have visited the States ***as many*** times ***as*** he has.

With uncountable nouns:

- John eats ***as much*** food ***as*** Peter.
- Jim has ***as little*** food ***as*** Sam.
- You've heard ***as much*** news ***as*** I have.
- He's had ***as much*** success ***as*** his brother has.
- They've got ***as little*** water ***as*** we have.

Exercises

For each sentence, choose the correction combination of comparatives to make a sentence.

1. The _____ you study for these exams, the _____ you will do.
 - a) hard ~ better
 - b) harder ~ more successfully
 - c) much ~ better
 - d) more ~ good

2. She doesn't really like vodka, so the _____ a bottle you find, the _____ it will be for us!
 - a) small ~ cheaper
 - b) smaller ~ cheap
 - c) smaller ~ good
 - d) smaller ~ cheaper

3. My neighbor is driving me mad! It seems that the _____ it is at night, the _____ he plays his music!
 - a) later ~ more loud

b) late ~ louder

c) later ~ louder

d) more late ~ loud

4. He spent a year in India and loves spicy food. The _____ the food is, the _____ he likes it.

a) hotter ~ more

b) hot ~ much

c) hotter ~ much

d) hot ~ more

5. Of course you can come to the party! The _____ the _____.

a) more ~ merrier

b) more ~ good

c) many ~ better

6. She will be really angry about that vase being broken! The _____ she knows about it, the _____.

a) more ~ better

b) less ~ better

c) worse ~ worse

d) worse ~ better

7. He has 6 large dogs to protect his house. The ____ the dog, the ____ he feels.

a) big ~ safer

b) bigger ~ safer

c) bigger ~ safer

d) more big ~ more safe

8. Earning money has always been the thing that pleases him most. The ____ he becomes, the ____ he is.

a) more rich ~ happier

b) richer ~ happier

c) richer ~ happier

9. You must drive slower in built up areas. The ____ you drive in the city, the ____ it is that you will have an accident.

a) faster ~ probable

b) quicker ~ probably

c) faster ~ more probably

d) quicker ~ more probable

Fill in the gaps with the comparative forms of the adjectives in brackets to complete the following sentences in English.

1. My sister thinks she's _____ (intelligent) than me, but I don't agree!
2. *Avatar* is probably _____ (bad) film I've seen!
3. What is _____ (wet) month of the year in England?
4. Do you think the *Harry Potter* films are _____ (good) than the books?
5. Who is _____ (powerful) person in your country?
6. I think *Men in Black 1* was _____ (funny) than *Men in Black 3*.
7. Is Angelina Jolie _____ (old) than Sandra Bullock?
8. John is _____ (nice) person that I know.

Fill in the gaps with the comparative forms of the adjectives in brackets to complete the following sentences in English.

1. Sharks are _____ than lions. (**dangerous**)
2. William Shakespeare is _____ than Christopher Marlowe. (**famous**)

3. Henry is _____ than his sister. (**absent-minded**)
4. Tom is _____ than David. (**selfish**)
5. He is _____ than he used to be last year. (**fat**)
6. Andrew seems to be _____ than he was two months ago.
(**slim**)
7. Walt is _____ nowadays than he used to be when he was
_____. (**impatient / young**)
8. Our town is _____ than Manchester. (**attractive**)
9. Tom is _____ than his elder brother. (**impulsive**)
10. This poem is _____ than any other poem I've read.
(**pathetic**)
11. Your house is _____ than mine. (**beautiful**)
12. His room is _____ than yours. (**dark**)
13. I think that English films are _____ than American ones.
(**interesting**)
14. George runs _____ than Jim. (**fast**)
15. The living conditions are _____ than they used to be.
(**bad**)
16. Today Father is _____ than usual. (**irritated**)
17. Exercise 16 is _____ than exercise 15. (**easy**)
18. "Prevention is _____ than cure". (**good**)

19. Your argumentation is _____ than Robert's. (**convincing**)

20. At home, Mother is always _____ than Father. (**busy**)

Write the adjectives between brackets in the correct form

1. My brother has a (tidy) _____ room than me.
2. Australia is (big) _____ than England.
3. I'm (good) _____ now than yesterday.
4. She's got (little) _____ money than you, but she doesn't care.
5. He thinks Chinese is (difficult) _____ language in the world
6. Valencia played (bad) _____ than Real Madrid yesterday.
7. Cats are not (intelligent) _____ as dogs.
8. Show me (good) _____ restaurant downtown.
9. (hot) _____ desert of all is the Sahara and it's in Africa.
10. Who is (talkative) _____ person in your family?