

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.

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

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:

Adjective	Comparative of Superiority	Superlative of Superiority
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	farther / further	the farthest / the furthest

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)