

## Comparative vs. Superlative Adjectives

We use **comparative adjectives** to show change or make comparisons:

*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**:

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

## Superlative adjectives

We use *the* with **superlative adjectives**:

*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.  
I have three sisters: Jan is **the oldest** and Angela is **the youngest**.*

## How to form comparative and superlative adjectives

We usually add *-er* and *-est* to **one-syllable words** to make comparatives and superlatives:

<i>Old</i>	<i>older</i>	<i>oldest</i>
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<i>Long</i>	<i>longer</i>	<i>longest</i>
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If an adjective **ends in -e**, we add *-r* or *-st*:

<i>Nice</i>	<i>nicer</i>	<i>nicest</i>
<i>Large</i>	<i>larger</i>	<i>largest</i>

If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

<i>Big</i>	<i>bigger</i>	<i>biggest</i>
<i>Fat</i>	<i>fatter</i>	<i>fattest</i>

If an adjective **ends in a consonant and -y**, we change *-y* to *-i* and add *-er* or *-est*:

<i>Happy</i>	<i>happier</i>	<i>happiest</i>
<i>Silly</i>	<i>sillier</i>	<i>silliest</i>

We use *more* and *most* to make comparatives and superlatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

<i>Careful</i>	<i>more careful</i>	<i>most careful</i>
<i>Interesting</i>	<i>more interesting</i>	<i>most interesting</i>

However, with **these common two-syllable adjectives**, you can **either** add *-er/-r* and *-est/-st* or use *more* and *most*:

<i>common</i> <i>cruel</i> <i>gentle</i> <i>handsome</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>narrow</i> <i>pleasant</i> <i>polite</i> <i>simple</i> <i>stupid</i>
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*He is certainly **handsomer** than his brother.*  
*His brother is handsome, but he is **more handsome**.*  
*She is one of **the politest** people I have ever met.*  
*She is **the most polite** person I have ever met.*

The adjectives **good**, **bad** and **far** have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

<i>Good</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>best</i>
<i>Bad</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>worst</i>

<i>Far</i>	<i>farther/further</i>	<i>farthest/furthest</i>
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We use a superlative to say that a thing or person is the most of a group. When we use a superlative adjective ('the tallest student') before the noun, we generally use it with 'the'. This is because there's only one (or one group) of the thing we are talking about. There is one student who is the tallest in the class, and because it's clear to the listener which one we mean, we usually use 'the':

- She's **the** most beautiful girl I've ever seen.
- It's **the** best café in London.
- John and Lisa are **the** most intelligent students here.
- This bowl is **the** biggest one.

Remember, we don't use 'the' when there is a possessive:

- He's my best student.
- That's our most important goal.

It's possible to drop 'the' when the adjective is used later in the sentence, rather than directly before the noun. We can choose either 'the' or 'no article', with no change in meaning:

- She is (the) most beautiful.
- This café is (the) best.
- John and Lisa are (the) most intelligent.
- This bowl is (the) biggest.

This is not possible when the adjective comes directly before the noun:

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**Compare 2 "things," "who" are "the" same " positive " degree**

- "This "ball" is "as/big/as the "other" ball.

**Compare "two" things "with" each "other" "" comparative " degree "**

- "This "ball" is "bigger/than the "other" ball.

**Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with the present simple form of the verbs in brackets. Use contractions where possible.**

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.
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**Exercise 2: Choose whether each sentence requires the comparative or superlative form:**

1. There are 10 houses on our street. Our house is the \_\_\_\_\_ one.  
 biggest  
 bigger
2. My brother sings better than I do, but I play guitar \_\_\_\_\_ than he does.  
 the best  
 better
3. This is \_\_\_\_\_ song I have ever heard!  
 better  
 the best
4. Tom is \_\_\_\_\_ than I am.  
 stronger  
 the strongest
5. Out of all the students in our class, I am \_\_\_\_\_.  
 the shortest  
 shorter
6. Everyone says that my sister is \_\_\_\_\_ than I am.

- the best looking
- better looking

7. She is \_\_\_\_\_ girl in our school.

- the best looking
- better looking

8. This is boring. Let's do something \_\_\_\_\_.

- the most interesting
- more interesting

9. This isn't \_\_\_\_\_ book I have ever read.

- more interesting
- the most interesting

10. Your apartment is \_\_\_\_\_ than mine.

- cleaner
- the cleanest

**Exercise 3: Find and correct the mistakes.**

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- A. Between Lary and Moe, Lary is the meanest.
  - B. That was my most happiest moment.
  - C. This coffee is better than the shop on the other side of the street.
  - D. Greg was more trustworthy than any student in the class.
  - E. Aunt Maria has fewer patience than Uncle John.
  - F. He moved quicker than the cart did.
  - G. Sharon's garden was the beautifulest in town.
  - H. Mary was the tallest of the two girls.
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**Exercise 4: If it's possible to choose between 'the' and 'no article', put 'the'. Otherwise, put 'no article' (-).**

1) I read a lot of books on subject and this one is

best.

2) I wake up

earliest on Mondays as I go to a yoga class. On other days I sleep later.

3) Amanda's

happiest when she's on holiday.

4) Which student in the class is

happiest?

5) This juice is

most delicious if you chill it for a long time first.

6) The British Library is

best in the mornings. It's too crowded in the afternoons.

7) John is

calmest when he's working.

8) Of all the people in our office, Adrian is

calmest.

9) Lucy wakes up

earliest in her family.

10) Which juice is

most delicious? Apple juice, orange juice or raspberry juice?

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**Exercise 5: Choose the correct form of adjective.**

1. This is a **nice** cat. It's much  than my friend's cat.

2. Here is Emily. She's six years **old**. Her brother is nine, so he is .
  3. This is a **difficult** exercise. But the exercise with an asterisk (\*) is the  exercise on the worksheet.
  4. He has an **interesting** hobby, but my sister has the  one in the world.
  5. In the last holidays I read a **good** book, but father gave me an even  one last weekend.
  6. School is **boring**, but homework is  than school.
  7. Skateboarding is a **dangerous** hobby. Bungee jumping is  than skateboarding.
  8. This magazine is **cheap**, but that one is .
  9. We live in a **small** house, but my grandparents' house is even  than ours.
  10. Yesterday John told me a **funny** joke. This joke was the  joke I've ever heard.
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**Exercise 6: Choose the correct answer for each question, be careful as you cannot change your mind.**

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**1 Mount Everest measures 8,848 meters, Mount Kangchenjunga measures 8,596 meters and K2 measures 8,611 meters.**

- Mount Everest is the highest mountain.
  - Mount Kangchenjunga is the highest mountain.
  - K2 is the lowest mountain.
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**2 Anne is 43 years old, Lynne is 40 years old.**

- Anne is younger than Lynne.
  - Lynne is older than Anne.
  - Anne is older than Lynne.
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**3 The red dress costs 25.00, the blue dress costs 15.00.**

- The red dress costs less than the blue dress.
- The blue dress costs less than the red dress.
- The blue dress costs more than the red dress.

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**4 Russia is 17,075,000 sqm, France is 544,000 sqm.**

- France is larger than Russia.
- Russia is larger than France.
- Russia is smaller than France.

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**5 Box A is bigger than box B, box C is bigger than box A.**

- Box B is the smallest box.
- Box A is the biggest box.
- Box C is the smallest box.

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**6 I live 2 km from my mother. My sister lives 1 km from her.**

- I live nearer my mother than my sister.
- My sister lives nearer my mother than me.
- My sister lives further from my mother than me.

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**7 Jane has 1,633.20, Bill has 1,635.30, John has 1,632.10.**

- Bill has the most money.
- Jane has the least money.
- John has the most money.

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**8 Carrots are good for you, cakes are bad for you.**

- Carrots are worse for you than cakes.
- Cakes are better for you than carrots.
- Carrots are better for you than cakes.

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**9 Johnny was bad, Wendy was very bad, Billy was very, very bad.**

- Johnny was the worst.
- Wendy was the best.
- Billy was the worst.
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**10 I saw two plays, one on Monday 1st April and the other on Tuesday 2nd April. I enjoyed the Monday play, I didn't enjoy the one on Tuesday.**

I enjoyed the second play more than the first play.

I enjoyed the first play more than the second play.

I enjoyed the first play less than the second play.

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