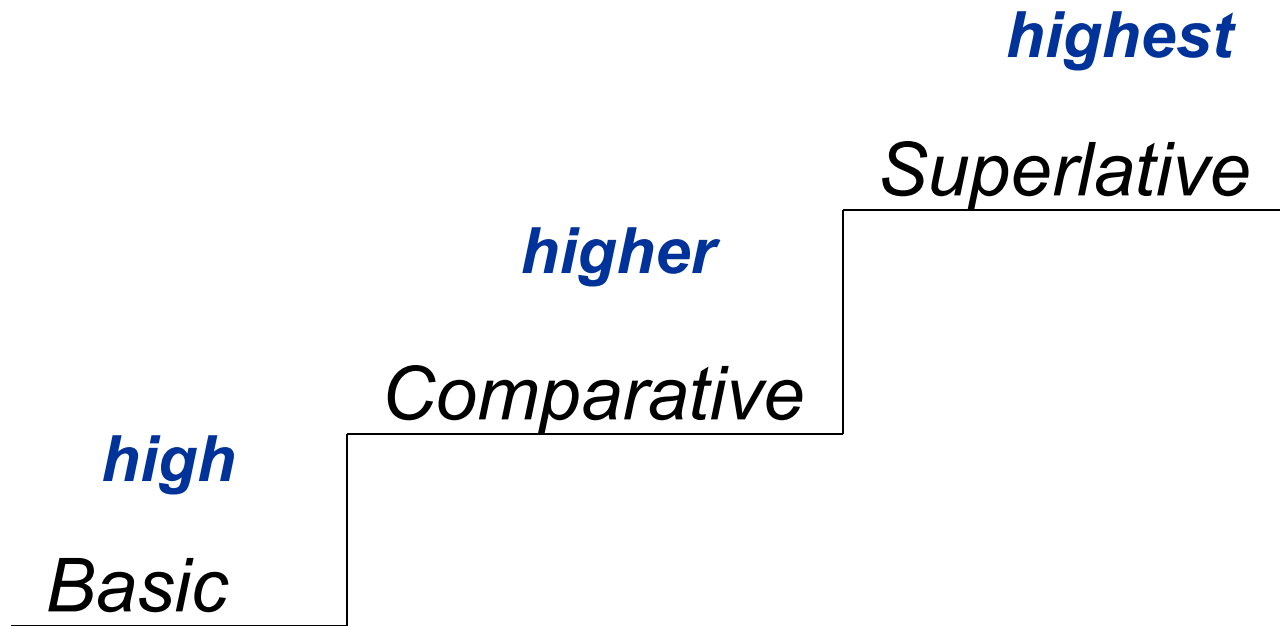


Adjectives in English

Degrees of Comparison

There are three degrees:



One-syllable Adjectives

Usually, the ending **er/est** is simply added to the positive form of the adjective. For example:

fast - faster strong - stronger

tall - tallest young - youngest

When an adjective ends in a silent **e**, the silent **e** is dropped before the ending **er/est** is added.

e.g.: brave - braver - bravest

close - closer - closest

late - later - latest

When an adjective ends in **y** preceded by a consonant, the **y** is changed to **i** before the ending **er/est** is added.

e.g.: **dry** - **drier-driest**; **easy** - **easier-easiest**

When an adjective ends in a CVC and the last consonant is other than **w**, **x** or **y** or a **double vowel** - we double the final consonant before adding **er/est** is added.

e.g.: **big** - **bigger-biggest** (hot - hotter sad - saddest)

but:

e.g.: **loud** - **louder**; **neat** - **neater**; **soon** - **sooner**

Two and more syllable adjectives

Adjectives of 2 or more syllables (unless it ends with *r* or *y*), we make superior by using:
the most / the least adjective noun.

This book is ***the most / the least*** interesting book I have ever read.

Two and more syllable adjectives

Adjectives of 2 or more syllables (unless it ends with *r* or *y*), we compare by using:

noun verb **more / less** _____ **than** noun.

This book is **more interesting than** that book.

My ad is **less convincing than** your ad.

Irregular Forms of Comparison

good	better than	<i>the best</i>
bad	worse than	<i>the worst</i>
far	farther / further than	<i>the farthest / furthest</i>
little	less than	<i>the least</i>
few	fewer than	<i>the fewest</i>
many/much	more than	<i>the most</i>

MJH teacher

Adjective Order

Fact Adjectives

Adjective order

If we have more than one adjective of fact they go in the following order:

Size	Age	Shape	Color	Origin	Material	purpose
Big small tall	Old antique ancient new	Round square oval	red auburn blond black	French Spanish Chinese	wooden silver metallic	riding planting fishing

Opinion + Fact Adjectives

opinion	Facts							NOUN
	Size/ length	shape	how old?	Colour/ pattern	origin	made of ?	Purpose/ use	
	large			brown				dog
	tall		young		Thai			man
		round				marble	dining	table
delicious						vegetable		soup
delicious	hot (general)					vegetable		soup

Suffixation

-ful	having...	<i>useful</i>
	giving...	<i>helpful</i>
-less	without	<i>fearless</i>
-ly	having the qualities of	<i>cowardly</i>
-like	“	<i>childlike</i>
-y	like...	<i>creamy</i>
	covered with...	<i>hairy</i>
-ish	belonging to	<i>Turkish</i>
	having the character	<i>foolish</i>
-ian	in the tradition of	<i>Darwinian</i>

Other adjective suffixes:

-able/-ible = worthy/able: *readable/edible*

-ish = somewhat *youngish*

-ed = having *balconied*

Adjective suffixes meaning “having the characteristics of.../ peculiar to.../ full of”

-al	<i>criminal</i>
(also –ial and –ical	<i>editorial</i> <i>musical</i>
-ic	<i>heroic</i>
-ive	<i>attractive</i>
(also – ative and -itive	<i>affirmative</i> <i>sensitive</i>
-ous	<i>virtuous</i>
(also –eous and –ious	<i>courteous</i> <i>vivacious</i>

Suffixation

- **NOTE! -ic vs. -ical**
- **(difference in meaning)**

an **economic** miracle (in the economy)
the car is **economical** to run (money-saving)

a **historic** building (with a history)
historical research (pertaining to history)

Adjectives as Nouns = Substantivized Adjectives

**Fully substantivized – have all
characteristics of a noun**

*a native - the natives, a Russian - the
Russians, a German - the Germans.*

**Partially substantivized – are used as
nouns only to show a group, many**
*the rich, the unemployed, the good, the
evil, the beautiful, the English.*