

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

A Comparative and superlative adjectives

1 One-syllable adjectives and two-syllable adjectives ending in -y

adjective	comparative adjective + -er	superlative <i>the</i> + adjective + -est
<i>old</i>	<i>older</i>	<i>the oldest</i>
<i>big</i>	<i>bigger</i>	<i>the biggest</i>
<i>large</i>	<i>larger</i>	<i>the largest</i>
<i>friendly</i>	<i>friendlier</i>	<i>the friendliest</i>

2 Other two-syllable adjectives and longer adjectives

crowded

boring

interesting

polluted

more crowded

more boring

more interesting

more polluted

the most crowded

the most boring

the most interesting

the most polluted

3 Irregular forms

bad
good
far

worse
better
further/farther

the worst
the best
the furthest/farthest

REMEMBER!

- 1 With short vowels the final consonant doubles.
thin → *thinner* → the *thinnest*
- 2 If the adjective ends in -e, we only add -r or -st.
fine → *finer* → the *finest*
- 3 -y changes to -ier and -iest.
busy → *busier* → the *busiest*

B Large and small differences

- 1 If there is a large difference between two objects, we can use *far*, *much* and *a lot*.

Russia is	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>far</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>a lot</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>much</i></td></tr></table>	<i>far</i>	<i>a lot</i>	<i>much</i>	<i>bigger</i> than Belgium.
<i>far</i>					
<i>a lot</i>					
<i>much</i>					

- 2 For small differences, we can use *a little (bit)* or *slightly*.

France is	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>a little</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>a little bit</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>slightly</i></td></tr></table>	<i>a little</i>	<i>a little bit</i>	<i>slightly</i>	<i>bigger</i> than Spain.
<i>a little</i>					
<i>a little bit</i>					
<i>slightly</i>					



Common phrases with superlatives

1 **by far the most ... / -est**

*Brazil is **by far the largest** country in South America.*

2 **one of the most ... / -est**

*Baghdad is **one of the oldest cities** in the world.*

3 **the second / third most ... / -est**

*Birmingham is **the second biggest** city in England.*

4 **the least**

*The coach is **the least expensive** way to get to the airport.*

REMEMBER!

The superlative phrases are often followed by *in* + place.
*Buenos Aires is the biggest city **in** Argentina.*

Other ways of making comparisons

1 *not as ... as*

*Silver **isn't as** expensive **as** gold.*

If there is only a small difference, we can use *quite*.

*Linda **isn't quite as** tall **as** her sister.*

2 Comparing two things which are the same

*Susan is **as** tall **as** her mother.*

3 *less*

*Less is the opposite of *more*.*

*Petrol is **less expensive than** it is in Europe.*

4 Making comparisons with nouns

Rome has **more historic buildings** than any city I know.

There's **less space** in this room than in the other one.

There were **fewer** people in my old class.

We use *fewer* with countable and *less* with uncountable nouns.

5 Other useful expressions for comparing things

- a If two things are nearly the same:

*Their new car is **very similar** to their old one.*

*The train times are **about the same as** before.*

- b If there is no difference between two things:

*His watch is **exactly the same as** mine.*

- c If there is a small difference between two things:

*The new timetable is **slightly different from** the previous one.*

- d If there is a big difference between two things:

*The new stadium is **completely different from** the old one.*

