**Comparative and superlative adjectives**

## Comparative adjectives

We use **comparative**[**adjectives**](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/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 thanwhen 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](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/definite-article) 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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| old | older | oldest |
| long | longer | longest |

If an adjective **ends in –e**, we add –r or –st:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| nice | nicer | nicest |
| large | larger | largest |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| big | bigger | biggest |
| fat | fatter | fattest |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| silly | sillier | silliest |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| careful | more careful | most careful |
| interesting | more interesting | most interesting |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| commoncruelgentlehandsomelikely | narrowpleasantpolitesimplestupid |

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:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| good | better | best |
| bad | worse | worst |
| far | farther/further | farthest/furthest |

## List of comparative superlative and adjectives

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *****Adjective***** | *****Comparative***** | *****Superlative***** |
| angry | angrier | angriest |
| bad | worse | worst |
| big | bigger | biggest |
| bitter | bitterer | bitterest |
| black | blacker | blackest |
| bland | blander | blandest |
| bloody | bloodier | bloodiest |
| blue | bluer | bluest |
| bold | bolder | boldest |
| bossy | bossier | bossiest |
| brave | braver | bravest |
| brief | briefer | briefest |
| bright | brighter | brightest |
| broad | broader | broadest |
| busy | busier | busiest |
| calm | calmer | calmest |
| cheap | cheaper | cheapest |
| chewy | chewier | chewiest |
| chubby | chubbier | chubbiest |
| classy | classier | classiest |
| clean | cleaner | cleanest |
| clear | clear | clearest |
| clever | cleverer | cleverest |
| close | closer | closest |
| cloudy | cloudier | cloudiest |
| clumsy | clumsier | clumsiest |
| coarse | coarser | coarsest |
| cold | colder | coldest |
| cool | cooler | coolest |
| crazy | crazier | craziest |
| creamy | creamier | creamiest |
| creepy | creepier | creepiest |
| crispy | crispier | crispiest |
| cruel | crueller | cruellest |
| crunchy | crunchier | crunchiest |
| curly | curly | curliest |
| curvy | curvier | curviest |
| cute | cuter | cutest |
| damp | damper | dampest |
| dark | darker | darkest |
| deadly | deadlier | deadliest |
| deep | deeper | deepest |
| dense | denser | densest |
| dirty | dirtier | dirtiest |
| dry | drier | driest |
| dull | duller | dullest |
| dumb | dumber | dumbest |
| dusty | dustier | dustiest |
| early | earlier | earliest |
| easy | easier | easiest |
| faint | fainter | faintest |
| fair | fairer | fairest |
| fancy | fancier | fanciest |
| far | further/farther | furthest/farthest |
| fast | faster | fastest |
| fat | fatter | fattest |
| few | fewer | fewest |
| fierce | fiercer | fiercest |
| filthy | filthier | filthiest |
| fine | finer | finest |
| firm | firmer | firmest |
| fit | fitter | fittest |
| flaky | flakier | flakiest |
| flat | flatter | flattest |
| fresh | fresher | freshest |
| friendly | friendlier | friendliest |
| full | fuller | fullest |
| funny | funnier | funniest |
| gentle | gentler | gentlest |
| gloomy | gloomier | gloomiest |
| good | better | best |
| grand | grander | grandest |
| grave | graver | gravest |
| greasy | greasier | greasiest |
| great | greater | greatest |
| greedy | greedier | greediest |
| gross | grosser | grossest |
| guilty | guilter | guiltiest |
| hairy | hairier | hairiest |
| handy | handier | handiest |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| hard | harder | hardest |
| harsh | harsher | harshest |
| healthy | healthier | healthiest |
| heavy | heavier | heaviest |
| high | higher | highest |
| hip | hipper | hippest |
| hot | hotter | hottest |
| humble | humbler | humblest |
| hungry | hungrier | hungriest |
| icy | icier | iciest |
| itchy | itchier | itchiest |
| juicy | juicier | juiciest |
| kind | kinder | kindest |
| large | larger | largest |
| late | later | latest |
| lazy | lazier | laziest |
| light | lighter | lightest |
| likely | likelier | likeliest |
| little | littler | littlest |
| lively | livelier | liveliest |
| lonely | lonlier | loneliest |
| long | longer | longest |
| loud | louder | loudest |
| lovely | lovelier | loveliest |
| low | lower | lowest |
| mad | madder | maddest |
| mean | meaner | meanest |
| messy | messier | messiest |
| mild | milder | mildest |
| moist | moister | moistest |
| narrow | narrower | narrowest |
| nasty | nastier | nastiest |
| naughty | naughtier | naughtiest |
| near | nearer | nearest |
| neat | neater | neatest |
| needy | needier | neediest |
| new | newer | newest |
| nice | nicer | nicest |
| noisy | noisier | noisiest |
| odd | odder | oddest |
| oily | oilier | oiliest |
| old | older/elder | oldest/eldest |
| plain | plainer | plainest |
| polite | politer | politest |
| poor | poorer | poorest |
| pretty | prettier | prettiest |
| proud | prouder | proudest |
| pure | purer | purest |
| quick | quicker | quickest |
| quiet | quieter | quietest |
| rare | rarer | rarest |
| raw | rawer | rawest |
| rich | richer | richest |
| ripe | riper | ripest |
| risky | riskier | riskiest |
| roomy | roomier | roomiest |
| rough | rougher | roughest |
| rude | ruder | rudest |
| rusty | rustier | rustiest |
| sad | sadder | saddest |
| safe | safer | safest |
| salty | saltier | saltiest |
| sane | saner | sanest |
| scary | scarier | scariest |
| shallow | shallower | shallowest |
| sharp | sharper | sharpest |
| shiny | shinier | shiniest |
| short | shorter | shortest |
| shy | shyer | shyest |
| silly | sillier | silliest |
| simple | simpler | simplest |
| sincere | sincerer | sincerest |
| skinny | skinnier | skinniest |
| sleepy | sleepier | sleepiest |
| slim | slimmer | slimmest |
| slimy | slimier | slimiest |
| slow | slower | slowest |
| small | smaller | smallest |
| smart | smarter | smartest |
| smelly | smellier | smelliest |
| smoky | smokier | smokiest |
| smooth | smoother | smoothest |
| soft | softer | softest |
| soon | sooner | soonest |
| sore | sorer | sorest |
| sorry | sorrier | sorriest |
| sour | sourer | sourest |
| spicy | spicier | spiciest |
| steep | steeper | steepest |
| stingy | stingier | stingiest |
| strange | stranger | strangest |
| strict | stricter | strictest |
| strong | stronger | strongest |
| sunny | sunnier | sunniest |
| sweaty | sweatier | sweatiest |
| sweet | sweeter | sweetest |
| tall | taller | tallest |
| tan | tanner | tannest |
| tasty | tastier | tastiest |
| thick | thicker | thickest |
| thin | thinner | thinnest |
| thirsty | thirstier | thirstiest |
| tiny | tinier | tiniest |
| tough | tougher | toughest |
| true | truer | truest |
| ugly | uglier | ugliest |
| warm | warmer | warmest |
| weak | weaker | weakest |
| wealthy | wealthier | wealthiest |
| weird | weirder | weirdest |
| wet | wetter | wettest |
| wide | wider | widest |
| wild | wilder | wildest |
| windy | windier | windiest |
| wise | wiser | wisest |
| worldly | worldlier | worldliest |
| worthy | worthier | worthiest |
| young | younger | youngest |