

Lesson 4: Comparatives and Superlatives

Objective:

To understand how to form comparatives and superlatives to compare two or more nouns based on syllable count and exceptions.

Comparatives and superlatives are used to compare two or more nouns. The formation varies depending on the syllables in the adjective.

1. One-Syllable Adjectives

For one-syllable adjectives:

- Comparative: Add -er to the adjective.
- Superlative: Add -est to the adjective.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
small	smaller	the smallest
cold	colder	the coldest
light	lighter	the lightest
wide	wider	the widest
hot	hotter	the hottest

Examples:

- London is bigger than Santiago.
- Yesterday was the hottest day of the year.

Notes:

- If the adjective ends in e, only add -r or -st (e.g., wider, not wideer).
- If the adjective follows the pattern consonant + short vowel + consonant (CVC), double the last letter (e.g., big - bigger, wet - wetter).

2. Two-Syllable Adjectives Ending in -Y

For adjectives with two syllables ending in -y:

- Comparative: Remove -y and add -ier.
- Superlative: Remove -y and add -iest.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
crazy	crazier	the craziest
happy	happier	the happiest
early	earlier	the earliest

Examples:

- My joke was funnier than yours.
- It was the happiest day of my life.

3. Adjectives with Two or More Syllables

For adjectives with two or more syllables (not ending in -y):

- Comparative: Use more before the adjective.
- Superlative: Use the most before the adjective.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
handsome	more handsome	the most handsome
enthusiastic	more enthusiastic	the most enthusiastic
wonderful	more wonderful	the most wonderful

Examples:

- Maha is more beautiful than Nada.
- It was the most wonderful day I have ever had.

Exception:

Some two-syllable adjectives that can end in -er and -est, such as narrow - narrower and simple - simpler.

4. Irregular Forms

Some adjectives have irregular forms in the comparative and superlative:

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	further / farther	the furthest / farthest
little	less	the least
many/much	more	the most
old	older / elder	the oldest / eldest

Examples:

- I am a better tennis player than you, but Mazin is the best.
- Puerto Montt is further / farther than Valdivia.

Notes:

- Farther / Further: Used for physical distance, while further also means "additional" or "more advanced."
- Older / Eldest: Use elder and eldest specifically in family relationships.

Special Cases

- Ill: When comparing, we say worse or the worst rather than iller or illest. We might also use sicker or sickest.

Summary Chart

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COMPARATIVES - SUPERLATIVES

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The dog is **faster** than the elephant.

The horse is **the fastest**.

The horse is **bigger** than the dog.

The elephant is **the heaviest**.

The dog is **more energetic** than the elephant.



	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
ONE syllable	fast young	-ER faster younger	-EST the fastest the youngest
ONE syllable Ending in -E	nice strange	-R nicer stranger	-ST the nicest the strangest
ONE syllable Consonant + Short Vowel + Consonant	big hot	Double the last consonant and add -ER bigger hotter	-EST the biggest the hottest
TWO syllables Ending in -Y	happy crazy	Remove the -Y and add -IER happier crazier	-IEST the happiest the craziest
TWO or MORE syllables	famous beautiful	MORE + more famous more beautiful	THE MOST + the most famous the most beautiful
Common Exceptions	good bad	better worse	the best the worst

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