

Comparative Adjectives and Superlative Adjectives



Aim

- To understand and use comparative adjectives.
- To understand and use superlative adjectives.



What Is a Comparative Adjective?

A **comparative adjective** is used to compare one person, action, thing or state to another. It adds the **suffix -er** to the original adjective.

e.g. **brighter**

'bright' is the original adjective.

'-er' is the suffix.

It is comparing **two things** only.
E.g. Sam's torch is brighter than John's torch.

What Is a Comparative Adjective?

The suffix **-er** is added to the end of the original adjective to show that it is being compared to one other person, action, thing or state.

Sometimes, the root adjective spelling does not change.

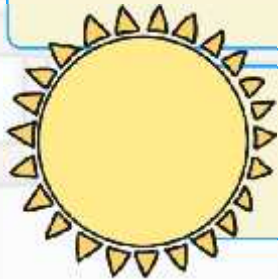
e.g. **warm**

The weather is **warmer** today than yesterday.

Other times, the **root adjective** spelling changes, as in these examples:

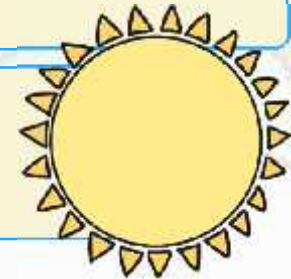
e.g. **happy**

The boy is **happier** than the girl.



e.g. **big**

My car is **bigger** than yours.



What Is a Comparative Adjective?

Can you add the suffix '-er' to these adjectives, to turn them into comparative adjectives and then put them in a sentence?

Can you write your sentences down? Take care with your spellings.

e.g. **small**

The mouse was **smaller** than the elephant.

hot	long	wet
shiny	light	bright

(Click to reveal the answer.)

What Is a Superlative Adjective?

A **superlative adjective** is used to compare one person, action, thing or state to **all others** in the same group. It adds the **suffix - est** to the original adjective.

e.g. **quietest**

'quiet' is the original adjective.

'-est' is the suffix.

It is comparing **more than two things** only.
E.g. Aisha is the quietest in the class.

What Is a Superlative Adjective?

The suffix **-est** is added to the end of the original adjective to show that it is being compared to two or more people, actions, things or states.

Sometimes, the **root adjective** spelling does not change.

e.g. **quick**

The girl is the **quickest** of them all.

Other times, the **root adjective** spelling changes, as in these examples:

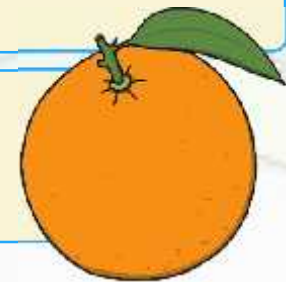
e.g. **juicy**

The orange is the **juiciest** of the fruits.



e.g. **hot**

Leeds was the **hottest** city on Wednesday.



What Is a Superlative Adjective?

Can you add '-est' to these adjectives, to turn them into superlative adjectives and then put them in a sentence?

Can you write your sentences down? Take care with your spellings.

e.g. cold

It was the coldest day in January so far.

thin	short	dry
funny	dark	dull

(Click to reveal the answer.)

Spelling Rules

Most words can simply have the suffix **-er** and **-est** added to the end of them without having to make any changes to the root adjective.

However, there are some words that you need to watch out for!

Words that end in a 'y'

These words need to have the 'y' changed into an 'i' before adding the suffix.

e.g.

heavy → heav**ier**

tiny → tin**iest**

Double consonants

Words that end in one vowel and then one consonant need to have the last consonant doubled.

e.g.

flat → flat**ter**

slim → slim**mest**

Words that end in an 'e'

Words that end in an 'e' need to have the 'e' removed before the suffix is added.

e.g.

large → larg**er**

fine → fin**est**

