

UNIVERSITÀ DI CAGLIARI



CORSO DI LAUREA IN ECONOMIA E GESTIONE AZIENDALE

CORSO DI LAUREA IN ECONOMIA E FINANZA

LINGUA INGLESE

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A.A. 2019/2020



# COMPARATIVES

• **We use comparatives to compare two things or two people.**

*E.G → She is taller than her husband.*

In English, to form comparatives between adjectives it's necessary to know the number of syllables which form the adjective.

For instance:

- "*Find*" contains one syllable,
- But "*finding*" contains two — *find* and *ing*.

# COMPARATIVES

## Comparative of majority:

Monosyllabic/Disyllabic adjective: *Adjective* –**ER** + **THAN**

Polysyllabic adjective : **More** + *adjective* + **THAN**

## Comparative of minority :

→ **Less** + *adjective* + **THAN**

## Comparative of equality :

→ **As** + *adjective* + **as..**

# COMPARATIVES

• **The rules to form comparatives and superlatives:**

**1. One syllable adjective ending in a silent 'e' — *nice***

→ add 'r' — *nicer*

**2. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant — *big***

→ the consonant is doubled and 'er' is added — *bigger*

**3. One syllable adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel — *high, cheap***

→ 'er' is added — *higher, cheaper*

# COMPARATIVES

- 4. A two syllable adjective ending in 'y' — *happy*
- → 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added — *happier*
  
- 5. Two syllable or more adjectives without 'y' at the end — *exciting*
- → **more + the adjective + than** — *more exciting than*
  
- **Examples:**
- *The Nile River is **longer** and **more famous than** the Thames.*
- *Egypt is much **hotter than** Sweden.*

# COMPARATIVES

## Minority comparative

- There is just one form for all adjectives and the structure is as follows:

**less + adjective + than**

- Example: *Football is less interesting than rugby.*

# COMPARATIVES

## Equality comparative

- To express similarities, if two things are equal in some way, we can use a comparison with **as ... as ....**
- There is just one form for all adjectives and the structure is as follows:
  - **As** + adjective + **as**
  - **Example:** *She is **as** intelligent **as** her mother.*

# COMPARATIVES

- The comparisons may involve adjectives (adj) or adverbs (adv) after the first *as*, and noun phrases (np) or clauses after the second *as*:
  - *He's grown so much. He's **as tall as** his father now.* (adj + noun phrase)
  - *The team is still **as good as** it was five years ago.* (adj + clause)
  - *The second game didn't go **as well as** the first one.* (adv + noun phrase)
  - *The company is not performing **as successfully as** it did when Arthur Carling was the President.* (adv + clause)

# COMPARATIVES

## Negative forms

- We can form the negative of **as ... as ...** with **not as ... as ...**, or with **not so ... as ...**. The form **not as ... as ...** is more common:
  - *He didn't run **as fast as** he did in the European Championship.*
  - *He didn't pay **as much** tax this year **as** last year because he earned less.*
  - *She's **not so shy as** she used to be. (less common)*
  - *I **don't** read **so many novels** now **as** I used to. (less common)*

# SUPERLATIVES

- **Superlatives are used to show the difference between more than two things or more than two people.**

E.G. → *Paris is the biggest city in France*

- **To form superlatives you need to know the number of syllables in the adjective. For instance:**

*“long”* contains one syllable,

but *“careful”* contains two — *care* and *ful*.

# SUPERLATIVES

## **Superlative of majority:**

Monosyllabic/Disyllabic adjective: **The Adjective –Est**

Polysyllabic adjective : **The most + adjective**

## **Superlative of minority:**

→ Polysyllabic adjective : **The least + adjective**

# SUPERLATIVES

**1. One syllable adjective ending in a silent ‘-e’ — *nice / large***

→ Superlative — add ‘-st’ — *nicest / largest*

**2. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant — *big / fat***

→ Superlative — the **consonant is doubled** and ‘-est’ is added

— *biggest / fattest*

**3. One syllable adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel — *high, soft***

→ Superlative — ‘-est’ is added — *highest, softest*

# SUPERLATIVES

4. **A two syllable adjective ending in 'y' — *happy/ silly***

→ Superlative — **'y' becomes 'i'** and **'-est'** is added — *happiest / silliest*

5. **Two syllable or more adjectives without 'y' at the end — *exciting***

→ Superlative — **The most + the adjective** - *the most exciting*

- **Examples**

- *Everest is the highest mountain in the world.*

- *This is one of the most exciting films I have ever seen.*

# SUPERLATIVES

## Minority superlative

- There is just one form for all adjectives and the structure is as follows:

**The least + adjective + of (in)**

- Example: *Country music is the least exciting of all sorts of music.*

# IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
bad	worse	worst
far(distance)	farther	farthest
far(extent)	further	furthest
good	better	best
little	less	least
many	more	most
much	more	most

# COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

We make comparative and superlative adverbs using the same rules as for comparative and superlative adjectives. For example:

- One syllable: *Jill works fast.* > Faster > fastest
- One syllable ending in -e: *They arrived late.* > Later > latest
- Two or more syllables: *Alan finished the test quickly.* > More quickly > most quickly
- Well: *She speaks English well.* > Better > best
- Badly: *She speaks German badly.* > Worse > worst
- Far: *He'll go far.* > Farther/further > farthest/furthest

# Pag. 53 - Coursebook

How are the comparatives and superlatives of the following formed?

- adjectives of one syllable
- adjectives ending in -y?
- adjectives of more than one syllable
- adverbs



For more information, see page 159.

**Practice 1** Complete the table.

	adjective	comparative	superlative	adverb	comparative	superlative
1	powerful	<i>more powerful</i>	<i>most powerful</i>	<i>powerfully</i>	<i>more powerfully</i>	<i>most powerfully</i>
2	exciting					
3	fast					
4	cynical					
5	easy					
6	hard					
7	responsive					
8	good					

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For more information, see page 159.

## Practice

1 Complete the table.

	adjective	comparative	superlative	adverb	comparative	superlative
1	powerful	<i>more powerful</i>	<i>most powerful</i>	<i>powerfully</i>	<i>more powerfully</i>	<i>most powerfully</i>
2	exciting	More exciting	The most exciting	Excitingly	More excitingly	The most excitingly
3	fast	Faster	The fastest	Fast	Faster	The fastest
4	cynical	More cynical	The most cynical	Cynically	More cynically	The most cynically
5	easy	Easier	The easiest	Easily	More easily	The most easily
6	hard	Harder	The hardest	Hard	Harder	The hardest
7	responsive	More responsive	The most responsive	Responsively	More responsively	The most responsively
8	good	Better	The best	Well	Better	The best

# EXERCISE

- *My brother has a (tidy) room than me.*
  - *Australia is (big) than England.*
  - *I'm (good) now than yesterday.*
  - *She's got (little) money than you, but she doesn't care.*
  - *He thinks Chinese is (difficult) language in the world*
- 
- *My brother has a tidier room than me.*
  - *Australia is bigger than England.*
  - *I'm better now than yesterday.*
  - *She's got less money than you, but she doesn't care.*
  - *He thinks Chinese is the most difficult language in the world.*

# EXERCISE

- *Greenland is the \_\_\_\_\_ (large) island in the world.*
- *Travelling by plane is \_\_\_\_\_ (fast) than travelling by train.*
- *Boracay Island in the Philippines has \_\_\_\_\_ (good) beaches I have ever seen.*
- *Jamaica is \_\_\_\_\_ (sunny) than Norway.*
- *Fjordland in New Zealand is \_\_\_\_\_ (wet) place in the world.*

- *largest*
- *faster*
- *the best*
- *sunnier*
- *the wettest*

# EXERCISE

- *Rain in the wet season is \_\_\_\_\_ (heavy) than during the rest of the year.*
- *Easter Island is \_\_\_\_\_ (interesting) island I have ever visited.*
- *A holiday in Thailand is \_\_\_\_\_ (exciting) than a holiday in Spain.*
- *Santa Cruz is the second \_\_\_\_\_ (large) island in the Galapagos.*
- *The Galapagos are one of the \_\_\_\_\_ (expensive) places in the world to visit.*

- *heavier*
- *the most interesting*
- *more exciting*
- *largest*
- *most expensive*