

UNIVERSITÀ DI CAGLIARI



CORSO DI LAUREA IN ECONOMIA E GESTIONE AZIENDALE

CORSO DI LAUREA IN ECONOMIA E FINANZA

LINGUA INGLESE

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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’ — *niciest / 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					

Pag. 53 - Coursebook

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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

EXCERCISE

- *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.*

EXCERCISE

- 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*
- *summer*
- *the wettest*

EXCERCISE

- 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