



Lesson 1.
Comparative and
Superlative Forms of
Adjectives

The background of the slide features a dark, semi-transparent overlay over a photograph of two goldfish in a glass bowl. One goldfish is in the foreground, and another is slightly behind it. The text is centered within a white rectangular border.

*ADJECTIVES HAVE GOT TWO
FORMS FOR COMPARISONS:*

the comparative and the superlative

Comparative form

- We use the **comparative form+than** to compare two people, things, etc.

My brother is *taller than* you.

His new car was *more expensive* than mine.

Superlative form

- We use **the+superlative form+of/in** to compare one person, thing, etc., with more than one person, thing, etc., in the same group.

- We use **in** when we talk about places.

Her dress was ***the prettiest*** of all.

Which is the ***most beautiful*** country in the world?

FORMING:

- The comparative of **one-syllable adjectives** is formed by adding **-er** and the superlative by adding **-est**.

fast - faster - fastest

The comparative of **real**, **right** and **wrong** is formed with **more** and the superlative with **most**.

real - more real - most real

Some one-syllable adjectives of abstract meaning such as: **clear**, **safe**, **true**, **free**, **wise**, etc., take either **-er/-est** or **more/most**.

wise - wiser - wisest

or *wise - more wise - most wise*

FORMING:

- The comparative of **two-syllable adjectives** ending in **-y** is formed by adding **-ier** and the superlative by adding **-iest**.
angry - angrier - angriest
easy - easier - easiest (more usual)
Also: *easy - more easy - most easy* (less usual)
- Some **two-syllable adjectives** such as: **clever, common, narrow, gentle, friendly, simple,** etc., take either **-er/-est** or **more/most**.
friendly - friendlier - friendliest
or *friendly - more friendly - most friendly*

FORMING:

- The comparative of adjectives ending in **-ing** (amusing), **-ed** (confused), **-ful** (stressful) and **-less** (hopeless) is formed with **more** and the superlative with **most**.
fascinating - more fascinating - most fascinating
- The comparative of adjectives of **three or more syllables** is formed with **more** and the superlative with **most**.
ridiculous - more ridiculous - most ridiculous



***COMPARATIVE AND
SUPERLATIVE FORMS OF
ADVERBS***

- The comparative and the superlative forms of adverbs are formed in the same way as those of adjectives.

- Adverbs which have the same form as the adjective usually take **-er** in the comparative and **-est** in the superlative.

fast - faster - fastest

late - later - latest

hard - harder - hardest

- Adverbs formed by adding **-ly** to the adjective take **more** in the comparative and **most** in the superlative form.

simply - more simply - most simply

*IRREGULAR
COMPARATIVES
AND
SUPERLATIVES*

Adjective/Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
good/well	better	best
bad/badly	worse	worst
much/many/ a lot of	more	most
little	less	least
far	further/farther	furthest/ farthest
old	older/elder	oldest/eldest



NOTE:

- a) **further/farther (adv)** = longer (in distance)
*The train station is **further/farther** away than the bus station.*
- further (adj)** = more
*I have got no **further** comments to make.*
(NOT: ... ~~farther~~ comments ...)
- b) **elder/eldest (+ noun) (adj)** = for members of a family
*My **elder** sister is a dentist.*
But: *My sister is **older** than me. (NOT: ~~elder~~ than)*

*WE USE ADJ-S
OR THEIR
COMPARATIVE
AND
SUPERLATIVE
FORMS IN THE
FOLLOWING
STRUCTURES:*

a) **very + adjective**

*She's **very intelligent**.*

b) **even/a lot/much/far/a bit/a little/slightly + comparative**

*Tom plays **even better** than Sue.*

*There were **a lot more** people at the party than I thought there would be.*

*She looks **much paler** now than she did an hour ago.*

*Dogs run **far slower** than horses.*

*It's **a bit colder** than yesterday.*

*Can you hang the picture **a little higher**, please?*

*This equation is **slightly more difficult** than the last one.*

WE USE ADJ-S OR
THEIR
COMPARATIVE
AND
SUPERLATIVE
FORMS IN THE
FOLLOWING
STRUCTURES:

- c) **by far + superlative**
*She's **by far the most helpful** assistant we've ever had.*
- d) **most + adj/adv = very**
*She's **most polite**.*
*He works **most efficiently**.*
- e) **any/no + comparative (used in questions and negations)**
*Is it **any cheaper** to go by car than by train?*
*He has **no more** patience with his employees.*

- **as + adjective + as**
Martha is as pretty as Julie.
- **not so/as + adjective + as**
Tony isn't as lazy as Carol.
- **twice/three times, etc./half as + adjective + as**
Our new flat is three times as big as our old one.
My chocolate cake isn't half as tasty as my mum's.
- **the same ... as**
I am the same age as Maggie.
- **less + (adjective) ... than**
The wooden chair is less comfortable than the leather armchair.

TYPES OF COMPARISONS

- **the least + (adjective) ... of/in**
*Mr Morris is **the least experienced** teacher in our school.*
- **the + comparative ... , the + comparative**
***The sooner** he arrives, **the better**.*
- **comparative + and + comparative**
*The music got **louder and louder** as the party went on.*

TYPES OF COMPARISONS



LIKE/AS

Like is used:

- **for similarities.**
She sings like an angel.
- **with feel, look, smell, sound, taste + noun.**
She looks like my aunt Bessie.
This coffee tastes like almonds.
- **with nouns, pronouns or the -ing form to express similarity or contrast.**
No one can cook like my father.

As is used:

- **to say what sb or sth really is (jobs, roles or functions).**

*She worked **as** an editor for ten years.*

*Leonardo di Caprio was very good **as** Jack in Titanic.*

*Don't use the fork **as** a bottle opener.*

- **in certain expressions: as usual, as ... as, as much, such as, the same as.**

*She was late **as usual**.*

*We don't drink **as much coffee as** we used to.*

- **after accept, be known, class, describe, refer to, regard, use.**

*She is **regarded as** the most innovative reporter of our times.*

- **in clauses of manner to mean "in the way that".**

*We did **as** we were told.*

As is used:

The structure **as ... as ...** is also used in certain comparative expressions such as:

as hard as nails

as white as snow

as black as the night

as free as a bird

as cold as ice etc.

***LET'S DO SOME
EXERCISES!***

Ex- 1. Fill in the gaps with the comparative or superlative form of the adj or adverb in the brackets, as in the example. Add any other necessary words.

- 1 I love living in Paris. The nightlife is a lot...*more exciting than*... **(exciting)** in Brussels.
- 2 This jigsaw puzzle is
..... **(simple)** one I've ever done.
- 3 My new office is
(far) away from the train station than my old one.
- 4 Jake got the job because he is
..... **(experienced)** the other candidates.
- 5 The people at the back of the room can't hear you. I'm afraid you'll have to speak
..... **(loud)**.
- 6 Mary has got four sisters and two brothers, but she's **(old)**.
- 7 Angela has **(soft)**
hair I've ever felt.
- 8 This is
(realistic) video game I've ever played.
- 9 That is **(silly)**
excuse you've ever given me.
- 10 He played **(well)**
his opponent and won the match.
- 11 He did **(badly)**
expected and therefore had to sit the exam again.
- 12 This year, fashionable clothes are
..... **(colourful)** they were last year.

Ex- 2. Fill in the gaps with the comparative or superlative form of the adj or adverb in the brackets, as in the example. Add any other necessary words.

- 1 The president's speech was much ...*longer than...* **(long)** I thought it would be.
- 2 Their house is **(old)** in the village.
- 3 Joe finds learning Latin **(difficult)** learning Italian.
- 4 She was **(nervous)** she thought she would be for her ballet exam.
- 5 The bones they found were from **(large)** dinosaur ever to live.
- 6 Can you park the car **(close)** to the pavement, please?
- 7 Yesterday, it was **(cold)** the weather forecasters had predicted it would be.
- 8 Frank was expected to win the race as he was the **(fit)** all the runners.
- 9 If you need any **(far)** information, call the offices from 10am to 2pm.
- 10 My Spanish teacher this year is much **(strict)** Mr Perez, my Spanish teacher last year.
- 11 This Saturday I woke up **(early)** I usually do.
- 12 I've heard that the supermarket on our street has **(good)** prices of all.

Ex- 3. Put the adj-s in brackets into the comparative or superlative form adding any necessary words, as in the example.

- 1 A: Why do you want to live in the countryside?
B: Because the air is ...*much cleaner than*...
(clean) in the city.
- 2 A: The driving test was very easy.
B: I know. It was a lot
(easy) I thought it would be.
- 3 A: Your dog is really clever.
B: Yes, she's
(intelligent) dog we've ever had.
- 4 A: How was the comedy festival?
B: Fantastic! The comedians told
..... **(funny)** jokes I've ever heard.
- 5 A: Did you go swimming in Crystal Lake when you were in the mountains?
B: Of course! And the water was
..... **(clear)** I've ever swum in.
- 6 A: Frank's treating everybody to a meal at De Salvio's tonight.
B: *De Salvio's!* How can he afford it! It's
..... **(expensive)** restaurant in the city.
- 7 A: I'm 1.60 metres. How tall are you?
B: I'm **(tall)** you.
I'm 1.64 metres.
- 8 A: That was **(bad)** train I've ever travelled on!
B: Well, at least it was
..... **(comfortable)** travelling by bus.

Ex- 4. Put the adj-s in brackets into the comparative or superlative form adding any necessary words, as in the example.

Dear Marie,

I'm writing to tell you about Merryville's Country Fair which took place last weekend. It was **1)**
..... **(big)** event of the year!

There were far **2)**
(many) people at the fair than there were last year. People were selling **3)**
(nice) ornaments and **4)**
..... **(wonderful)** arts and crafts I've ever seen. I bought a beautiful hand-woven rug. It is a bit **5)** **(big)** and much **6)** **(thick)** the old one I have. Luke found an unusual painting and we decided to buy it and hang it in our living room. It looks **7)** **(good)** the old picture we had there.

Although it was getting really cold as it got dark, people stayed to listen to the band which was playing **8)** **(fantastic)** dance music I've ever heard. As we watched the band perform, we ate **9)**
(delicious) toffee-apples I've ever had in my life!

And guess who this year's winner of **10)**
..... **(large)** pumpkin contest was! My grandad!

I hope you'll be in town for next year's fair. I've heard that it's going to be even **11)**
(good) this year's!

Take care,
Suzanne

Ex- 5. Underline the correct word(s).

- 1 Carmen arrived at the office **most/a bit** earlier than everyone else.
- 2 The weather isn't getting **any/no** better.
- 3 The director's latest film is **even/any** more boring than his last one.
- 4 Using paper products is **far/most** more environmentally friendly **from/than** using plastic products.
- 5 Is their living room **any/more** different to before?
- 6 A: How are you feeling today?
B: Oh, I'm **very/a lot** better, thanks.
- 7 Colin is **much/most** helpful.
- 8 Physics is **by far/even** my least favourite subject at school.

Ex- 6. Compare the following jobs using the adj-s from the list, as in the example.

exciting, imaginative, rewarding, tiring, stressful



taxi driver



teacher



doctor

e.g. ...Being a taxi driver is not as/so exciting as being a teacher....

...Being a teacher is twice as exciting as being a taxi driver....

...Being a doctor is by far the most exciting job of all....

.....

.....

.....

Ex- 7. Fill in the gaps with the comparative or superlative form of the adj or adverb in the brackets, as in the example. Add any other necessary words.

- 1 ...*The older...* **(old)** my husband gets, ...*the more handsome...* **(handsome)** he becomes.
- 2 **(few)** and
(few) people like living in large cities nowadays.
- 3 Her voice got **(quiet)** and
.....**(quiet)** until I couldn't hear her any more.
- 4 **(soon)** we leave,
..... **(soon)** we'll get there.
- 5 **(late)** it got,
..... **(worried)** we became.
- 6 Jane is becoming even
..... **(independent)** as the years go by.
- 7 Our package holiday wasn't
..... **(good)** yours.
- 8 It is **(windy)**
it was last weekend.
- 9 We should complain to the bakery. This birthday cake is three times
(expensive) the one we bought last year.
- 10 The more books he reads,
..... **(interested)** in the subject he becomes.

Ex- 8. Read the text and fill in the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

Paris is one of **1)** *...the...* most attractive and important cities **2)** the world. It is also one of Europe's largest cities and is known to people all over the world as "The City of Light". The central areas are the **3)** popular with tourists because there are lots of beautiful sights, monuments and museums. The Louvre has a **4)** large number of famous works, such as the Venus de Milo and the Mona Lisa. The Eiffel Tower is one of the **5)** popular tourist attractions in the world. The Industrial Revolution drew more and **6)** people into Paris and now more **7)** 10 million people live there. Every day, 5 million people use the city's underground system, the 'Metropolitain'. Paris is regarded **8)** one of the **9)** places to live if you're interested in fashion. Most **10)** the world's great fashion designers have shops and offices in the city. For many people, **11)** more they visit Paris, the **12)** they love it.

Ex- 9. Fill in the gaps with like or as, as in the example.


- 1 A: I can't tell what flavour this ice cream is.
B: Nor can I. But it tastes a bit ...*like*... oranges, doesn't it?
- 2 A: What does Sheryl do?
B: She works a lab assistant in a hospital.
- 3 A: How did Jim react to the news?
B: He cried a baby.
- 4 A: I'm sure I've met that woman before!
B: She does seem familiar. I know! She looks that old film star, Bette Davis!
- 5 A: Wasn't Batman a fantastic film?
B: It was indeed. And Michelle Pfeiffer was great Catwoman.
- 6 A: That was a delicious meal, especially the dessert.
B: I know. No one makes chocolate cake Annie.
- 7 A: Mr Brown knows a lot about Ancient Egypt.
B: Yes. He is regarded an expert on the subject.
- 8 A: Did Dave enjoy the opera last night?
B: He didn't see it! He fell asleep during the first act usual.
- 9 A: What's this, Grandma?
B: It's an old bottle, but I use it a vase.
- 10 A: I'm very happy that I finally met Mrs Arnold.
B: Yes, she seems a very interesting person.
- 11 A: I've never driven a car before.
B: Do exactly I say and everything will be fine.
- 12 A: You forgot to take your gloves with you.
B: I know, and now my fingers are as cold ice.

*Ex- 10. Tick the correct sentences,
as in the example.*

- | | | |
|----------|--|-------------|
| 1 | a) He works like a slave. |✓..... |
| | b) He works as a slave. | ..... |
| 2 | a) Did you do good in the algebra test? | ..... |
| | b) Did you do well in the algebra test? | ..... |
| 3 | a) Their dog is twice as big as ours. | ..... |
| | b) Their dog is twice as bigger as ours. | ..... |
| 4 | a) Mrs Darwin is a more helpful lady. | ..... |
| | b) Mrs Darwin is a most helpful lady. | ..... |
| 5 | a) I have no more strength to continue climbing. | ..... |
| | b) I have any more strength to continue climbing. | ..... |
| 6 | a) Mr Peters is by far more honest than our previous accountant. | ..... |
| | b) Mr Peters is far more honest than our previous accountant. | ..... |

Ex- 11. Correct the mistakes, as in the example.

- 1** My best friend eats ~~as~~ a bird.*like*.....
- 2** Who's the less selfish person in your family?
- 3** Carol was so frightened that she was shaking as a leaf.
- 4** My father has little free time now than he had when he was a young man.
- 5** The most tired you are the more mistakes you will make.
- 6** Their team was described like the best basketball team in the world.



*GOOD
LUCK ON
YOUR LMS
QUIZ!*

