

Adjectives



	Positive	Comparative	Superlative	Irregular Forms		
				Positive	Comparative	Superlative
short adjectives	tall long	taller longer	the tallest the longest			
adjectives ending in -y	busy happy	busier happier	the busiest the happiest	little much/many/a lot of good bad far	less more better worse farther/further	the least the most the best the worst the farthest/furthest
longer adjectives	beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful			

Form

- With **one-syllable** and **two-syllable** adjectives, we form the **comparative** by adding **-er**, and the **superlative** by adding **-est**. *quick – quicker – quickest*
- With **adjectives of more than two syllables**, we form the **comparative** with **more**, and the **superlative** with **the most**. *beautiful – more beautiful – the most beautiful*
- With some **two-syllable adjectives**, such as *friendly, clever, narrow, gentle* etc we form the **comparative** either with **-er** or with **more**, and the **superlative** either with **-est** or with **most**. *clever – cleverer – cleverest* or *clever – more clever – most clever*

Spelling

- To **one-syllable** adjectives ending in **-e**, we add **-r** in the **comparative**, and **-st** in the **superlative**. *large – larger – largest*
- To **one-syllable** adjectives ending in a **vowel + consonant**, we **double the last consonant** and add **-er/-est**. *big – bigger – biggest*
- To **two-syllable** adjectives ending in **-y**, we **drop the -y** and add **-ier/-iest**. *heavy – heavier – heaviest*

Use

- We use the **comparative** to compare one person, animal, thing, place, etc with another. We normally use **than** with the comparative. *A squirrel is smaller than a tiger.*
- We use the **superlative** to compare one person, animal, thing, place, etc with more than one person, animal, thing, place etc in the same group. *A mouse is the smallest of all.*
- We use **the ... of/in** with the superlative. *Lee is the smartest of all. Bob is the smartest boy in the class.* We use **in** with the superlative when we talk about places. *Mt Everest is the tallest mountain in the world.* (NOT: ~~of the world~~)

Note:

- **very + adjective** *The dolphins are very clever.*
- **much + comparative form of adjective** *A horse is much taller than a parrot.*
- **(not) as + adjective + as** *A lion is not as fast as a cheetah.*