



DUKE

Comparative and Superlative

Grammar

FORMING THE COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE

We use "er" for comparative and "est" for superlative (one or two syllables):

- *cheap* → *cheaper than* → *the cheapest*
- *fast* → *faster than* → *the fastest*
- *large* → *larger than* → *the largest*
- *lucky* → *luckier than* → *the luckiest*
- *early* → *earlier than* → *the earliest*
- *easy* → *easier than* → *the easiest*

Two syllables use "more" for comparative and "most" for superlative.

- *Intelligent* → *more intelligent than* → *the most intelligent*
- *Expensive* → *more expensive than* → *the most expensive*

One syllable with the spelling **consonant + vowel + consonant (CVC)** double the final consonant:

- *fat* → *fatter than* → *the fattest*
- *big* → *bigger than* → *the biggest*
- *sad* → *sadder than* → *the saddest*

IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

These adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms:

- *good* → *better than* → *the best*
- *bad* → *worse than* → *the worst*
- *far* → *further* | *farther than* → *the furthest* | *farthest*

Exercise

1) Choose the correct option.

- a) Can't you think of anything (_____) to say?
1) more intelligent 2) intelligenter 3) intelligentest 4) most intelligent
- b) Well, the place looks (_____) now.
1) cleaner 2) more clean 3) cleanest 4) most clean
- c) You need to draw it (_____).
1) more carefully 2) carefullier 3) carefulliest 4) most carefully
- d) The weather is getting (_____).
1) more good 2) gooder 3) better 4) best

2) Write the correct forms.

- a) They've made these chocolate bars _____ *smaller* _____. (*small*)
- b) Sport is _____ *more interesting* _____ **than** politics. (*interesting*)
- c) You're **the** _____ person I know. (*lucky*)
- d) The situation is getting _____. (*difficult*)
- e) I was _____ in my old job. (*happy*)
- f) I've got **the** _____ office. (*small*)
- g) This photo is **the** _____. (*good*)
- h) I feel _____ **than** I did yesterday. (*bad*)
- i) This game is _____ **than** the last one. (*exciting*)
- j) The prices are _____ here compared to the other store. (*low*)

3) Complete with the irregular forms.

Put in further, furthest, better, best, worse and worst. Matthew and Emma are walking in the country.

Emma: I'm not used to country walks. How much _____ is it?

Matthew: Not far. And it gets better. We've done **the** _____ part. Look, the path gets easier. It goes downhill from here. I hope you're feeling _____ now, Emma.

Emma: I feel horrible, actually, _____ **than** before.

Matthew: Oh, dear. Do you want to have a rest?

Emma: No, **the** _____ thing would be to get home, as soon as we can.

I'm not very fit, you know. This is **the** _____ I've walked for a long time.