

# COMPARISON

## FORM

### One-syllable adjectives

□ We use **-er** for the comparative and **-est** for the superlative.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
small	smaller	the smallest
high	higher	the highest
young	younger	the youngest
cold	colder	the coldest

### Adjectives of 3 or more syllables.

□ They take **more** in the comparative and **the most** in the superlative.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
exciting	more exciting	the most exciting
interesting	more interesting	the most interesting
important	more important	the most important
intelligent	more intelligent	the most intelligent

## Two-syllable adjectives

- Two-syllable adjectives ending in **-er** or **-y** usually add **-er** and **-est** for the superlative (note that the -y becomes -i)

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
clever	cleverer	the cleverest
happy	happier	the happiest
sunny	sunnier	the sunniest

- A few other two-syllable adjectives also take **-er** and **-est**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
quiet	quieter	the quietest
simple	simpler	the simplest
narrow	narrower	the narrowest
gentle	gentler	the gentlest

- Most other two-syllable adjectives especially those ending in -ful or -re take **more** and **the most**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
obscure	more obscure	the most obscure
careful	more careful	the most careful

- Some two-syllable adjectives can take either **-er / -est** or **more / the most**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
polite	politer / more polite	politest / the most polite
common	commoner / more common	commonest / the most common

## Irregular comparatives and superlatives

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	farther further	the farthest the furthest
old	older elder	the oldest the eldest
little	less	the least
much / many	more	the most

### Attention:

far	farther further	the farthest the furthest	<i>of distance only</i> <i>of distance and time</i>
old	older elder	the oldest the eldest	<i>of people and things</i> <i>of people only</i>

# COMPARISON

## USE

- We use **comparatives** when we compare one person, thing, etc, with another.

*Martin is taller than María.*

*The Amazon is longer than the Mississipi.*

*Good health is more important than money*



After a comparative we often use than

*taller than  
longer than  
more important than*

- We use **superlatives** when we compare one person or thing in a group with two or more people or things in the same group.

*Martin is the tallest of the three brother.*

*I´m the youngest in my family.*

*This is the most beautiful place in the country.*



We normally use the with superlatives.

*the tallest  
the youngest  
the most beautiful*

# OTHER USES OF COMPARATIVES

1.- We can use **comparative + and + comparative** to say that something increases or decreases.

*The weather is getting colder and colder.*  
*Things are becoming more and more expensive.*

2.- We can use **the + comparative clause, the + comparative clause** to say that two things change together or that one thing depends on another thing.

*The smaller a car is, the easier it is to park.*  
*The colder the weather, the higher my heating bills are.*

## AS ...as

We use **as ... as** to say that two people, things, etc are the same in some way.

*Judy is as tall as Martin.*  
*I am as old as you are.*  
*The exam was as difficult as we expected.*

After **not**, we can use **as ... as** or **so ... as**.

*Judy isn't as tall as Carla.*                      *Judy isn't so tall as Carla.*  
*Today isn't as cold as yesterday.*              *Today isn't so cold as yesterday.*

## Less ... than

We use **less + adjective + than** to compare one person, thing, etc with another.

*Judy is less tall than Martin.*  
*My novel is less interesting than yours.*  
*The exam was less difficult than we expected.*