

COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE FORMS OF ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

		Comparative	Superlative	
one-syllable adjectives	old wise	older wiser	the oldest the wisest	For most one-syllable adjectives, -er and -est are added.
two-syllable adjectives	famous pleasant	more famous more pleasant	the most famous the most pleasant	For most two-syllable adjectives, more and most are used.
	busy pretty	busier prettier	the busiest the prettiest	-er/-est are used with two-syllable adjectives that end in -y. The -y is changed to -i.
	clever gentle friendly	cleverer more clever gentler more gentle friendlier more friendly	the cleverest the most clever the gentlest the most gentle the friendliest the most friendly	Some two-syllable adjectives use -er/-est or more/most : able, angry, clever, common, cruel, friendly, gentle, handsome, narrow, pleasant, polite, quiet, simple, sour.
adjectives with three or more syllables	important fascinating	more important more fascinating	the most important the most fascinating	More and most are used with long adjectives.
irregular adjectives	good bad	better worse	the best the worst	Good and bad have irregular comparative and superlative forms.
-ly adverbs	carefully slowly	more carefully more slowly	the most carefully the most slowly	More and most are used with adverbs that end in -ly .
one-syllable adverbs	fast hard	faster harder	the fastest the hardest	The -er and -est forms are used with one-syllable adverbs.
irregular adverbs	well badly far	better worse farther/further	the best the worst the farthest/furthest	

COMPARING AND GRADING

If you want to use an adjective to say that something is of a higher degree, you add -er to the end of it or qualify it with more: *Your hair is **shorter** than it was last year.* · *She's **more intelligent** than her brother.* This is called the COMPARATIVE.

If you want to say that something is of the highest degree, you add -est to the end of it or qualify it with most: *the **longest** letter I've written.* · *This is **the most delicious** ice cream I've ever had.* This is called the SUPERLATIVE

WHICH COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE FORMS TO USE

One syllable adjectives usually form their comparative and superlative with -er and -est: small, smaller, smallest.

BUT, "real", "right" and "wrong" only take more and most.

Many **two syllable adjectives** take **more and most** (*local, urban, modern, public, special, etc*), but some can take **-er** and **-est** as well. Adjectives that can take **-er/ -est** include the following:

- **ending in -y and -ow** early, funny, happy, lively, narrow, noisy, pretty, shallow, wealthy
- **ending in -le** able, gentle, noble, simple
- **ending in -er and -ure** clever, mature, obscure
- **a number of other adjectives** common, cruel, handsome, pleasant, polite, quiet, solid, wicked,

Three syllable adjectives generally form their comparative and superlative only with more and most. BUT some adjectives with the prefix un- can also take -er and -est, for example: *unhappy* and *untidy, unfriendly*.

HOW TO ADD -ER AND -EST

In most cases, just put -er or -est on the end of the adjective: tough, tougher, toughest. But notice the following adjectives:

- **ending in a single consonant** with the vowel in front of it spelled with a single letter: double the consonant before adding the -er and -est: *big, bigger and biggest.*
- **ending in -y**: change this to 'i' before adding the -er and -est: *happy, happier, happiest.*
- **ending in e-**: drop the 'e' before adding -er and -est: *blue, bluer, and bluest.*