

Comparatives and Superlatives

By: Teacher Ignacio Chávez

Comparatives and superlatives are forms of adjectives that allow us to compare one thing to another. For example:

- **Comparative:** She is **taller than** me. (She has more height than me)
- **Superlative:** She is **the tallest** girl in the class. (She has the most height among all the girls in the class)

To form the comparative and superlative of adjectives, we have to follow some rules depending on the number of syllables and the ending of the adjective. Here are some general rules:

- **For one-syllable adjectives**, we add **-er** for the comparative and **-est** for the superlative. For example: **big - bigger - biggest**
- **For one-syllable adjectives ending in -e**, we add **-r** for the comparative and **-st** for the superlative. For example: **nice - nicer - nicest**
- **For one-syllable adjectives ending in a consonant followed by a vowel and a consonant**, we **double the final consonant** and add **-er** for the comparative and **-est** for the superlative. For example: **hot - hotter - hottest**
- **For two-syllable adjectives ending in -y**, we **change the -y to -i** and add **-er** for the comparative and **-est** for the superlative. For example: **happy - happier - happiest**
- **For most two-syllable adjectives and all adjectives with three or more syllables**, we use **more** for the comparative and **most** for the superlative. For example: **beautiful - more beautiful - most beautiful**

Syllables	Ending	Comparative	Superlative
One		Add -er	Add -est
One	-e	Add -r	Add -st
One	Consonant + vowel + consonant	Double the final consonant and add -er	Double the final consonant and add -est
Two	-y	Change -y to -i and add -er	Change -y to -i and add -est
Two or more		Use more / less	Use the most / the least

There are also some irregular adjectives that have different forms for the comparative and superlative. For example: **good - better – best**

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
far	farther / further	farthest / furthest

To compare two things or people, we use **than** after the comparative adjective.

She is taller than me.

To show that one thing or person is different from all the others of its kind, we use **the** before the superlative adjective.

She is the tallest girl in the class.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
nice	nicer	nicest
hot	hotter	hottest
happy	happier	happiest
beautiful	more beautiful / less beautiful	the most beautiful / the least beautiful