#### *Comparative and superlative*

#### Regular forms

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adjectives | Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
| 1. Of one syllable, add-(e)r/-(e)st to form their comparative & superlative forms. | smallhotsafe | smaller (than)hotter (than)safer (than) | the smallest (of/in)the hottest (of/in)the safest (of/in) |
| 2. Of two syllables ending in-ly, -y, -w, also add -er/-est. | friendlybusyshallow | friendlier (than)busier (than)shallower (than) | the friendliest (of/in)the busiest (of/in) the shallowest (of/in)  |
| 3. Of two or more syllables, take more/most. | seriousamazing | more serious (than)more amazing (than) | the most serious (of/in) the most amazing (of/in)  |

# Usage

1. We use the comparative to compare one person/ thing with another.

e.g. Mary is prettier than Ann.

 This car is more expensive than the others.

1. We use the superlative to compare one person/ thing with more than one of the same group.

e.g. He is the fastest runner of all.

 She is the most intelligent child in the family.

1. We often use than after a comparative. We normally use the before a superlative. We often

use of or in after a superlative. We use in with places.

e.g. She is shorter than you.

 This problem is more complicated than that one.

 I am the smartest of all.

 This room is the most comfortable one in the hotel.

1. Certain adjectives form their comparative and superlative in both ways, either by adding -er/-est to the adjectives or by taking more/most. Some of these are: clever, common, cruel, friendly, gentle, narrow, pleasant, polite, shallow, simple, stupid, quiet.

e.g. simple - simpler - the simplest ALSO

 simple - more simple - the most simple

#### Regular forms

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adverbs | Adverb | Comparative | Superlative |
| 1. Adverbs having the same forms as their adjectives add -er/-est. | longfastearly | longer (than)faster (than)earlier (than) | (the) longest(the) fastest(the) earliest |
| 2. Two syllables or compound adverbs (adjectives+-ly, e.g. careful-carefully) take more/most.  | oftenslowlyquickly | more often (than)more slowly (than)more quickly (than) | (the) most often (the) most slowly (the) most quickly  |

There are some adjectives that have one syllable but we use more and most with them:

Fun=more fun=most fun

Real=more real=most real

Right=more right=most right

Wrong=more wrong=most wrong

##### **Irregular forms**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adjectives/Adverbs | Comparative | Superlative |
| good/ wellbad/badlymuch/ many/ a lot oflittlefewfar |  betterworsemorelessfewerfarther/further |  best worst most least fewest farther/furthest |

## Usage

1. *Well* is the adverb of *good*.

e.g. He is a *good* cook. He cooks *well*.

1. *further* (adj) = more

e.g. For *further* information contact Mr White.

*further/farther* (adv) = longer (in distance)

e.g. He walked *further/farther* than I did.

1. *very +* adjective

e.g. It is *very* hot weather.

1. *most +* adj/adv = very

e.g. He was *most obliging*. = He was *very obliging*.

1. *even/much/far/a bit + comparative*

e.g. My sister behaved *even worse* than before.

 Susan is *much more patient* with children than Lily is.

1. *any + comparative* (used in negatives & questions)

e.g. This article was *not any better than* the previous one.

**Examples :**

|  |  |  |
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| **Adjective/ Adverb** |  **Comparative** |  **Superlative** |
|  e.g. high |  higher |  highest |
|  1. loud |  louder |  loudest |
|  2. large |  larger |  largest |
|  3. thin |  thinner |  thinnest |
|  4. heavy |  heavier |  heaviest |
|  5. quiet |  quieter/ more quiet |  quietest/ most quiet |
|  6. quietly |  more quietly |  most quietly |
|  7. intelligently |  more intelligently |  most intelligently |
|  8. dependent |  more dependent |  most dependent |
|  9. good/well |  better |  best |
|  10. difficult |  more difficult |  most difficult |

-My phone is bad but John‘s is worse and Amy’s is the worst, it does not work at all

-the computer keyboard is easier to use than a type writer

-this car is certainly better than mine, but it’s more expensive

-a desktop computer is bigger than a laptop

-employees need to secure their accounts with stronger passwords

-phones are good, but cell phones are better and smart phones are the best

**Comparative adjective sentence formula**

Noun (subject) +verb+=comparative adj+than+noun (object)

Eg : my television screen is bigger than your computer screen

 Laptop Dell is bigger than the Apple I pad 9,7

 Samsung Galaxy is more beautiful than the Portable Bluetooth speaker

**Superlative adjective sentence formula**

Noun (subject) + verb +the +superlative adjective +noun (object)

Eg : laptop is the newest version of computer edition

 TV Samsung is the most expensive gadget

 Fit Bit Alta HR is the smallest gadget

**Extra explanation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adjective form**  | **Comparative**  | **Superlative**  |
| On syllable ending in EWide  | Add r: wider  | Add st: widest  |
| One syllable with one vowel and one consonant at the end Big , fat  | Double the consonant and add r: fatter, bigger  | Double the last consonant and add est: fattest, biggest  |
| One syllable with more than one vowel and more than one consonant at the end Fast , light  | Add er: lighter, faster  | Add est: lightest, fastest  |
| Two syllables ending in yHappy, silly  | Changing y into i then adding er :Happier, sillier  | Changing y into i then adding est: happiest, silliest  |
| Two syllables or more not ending in y: modern, interesting  | Use more before the adj :More modern More interesting  | Use most before the adj:Most modern Most interesting  |