

# University Centre Abdelhafid Boussouf E-learning Centre



# English -MA.1

# **Lesson four**

#### **Comparative and superlative**

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# **Objectives of the lesson:**

➤ The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to and educate them on the idea of comparative and superlative.

# Comparative and superlative

#### 1. What is a Comparative?

Comparative Adjectives are words that characterize one noun by contrasting it with another. We typically think of 'er' words as bigger or smaller, but they can be a bit more challenging. The number of syllables in the adjective and whether or not the adjective ends with the letter 'y' influence how we form comparative adjectives.

#### 2. What is a Superlative?

Superlative Adjectives are words that describe a noun in the highest or lowest degree when compared to two or more nouns. Consider the words large, bigger, biggest, or small, smaller, and smallest.

It's not always as easy as adding 'est' to comparative adjectives. The number of syllables and whether the adjective ends with the letter 'y' also play a role in determining how to make a superlative adjective.

#### • One Syllable Adjectives

Let's look at a chart showing the comparative and superlative forms of the word for the most basic one syllable adjectives, where we add 'er' for the comparative and 'est' for the superlative.

\*Note: when the adjective follows the CVC, or consonant, vowel, consonant spelling, the final consonant is doubled.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Tall	Taller	Tallest
Small	Smaller	Smallest
Hot	Hotter	Hottest

Example of Comparative Adjectives: I am faster than my friend.

Example of Superlative Adjectives: That was the shortest movie in the series.

Notice the other words around the comparative and superlative adjectives. Most comparatives are followed by 'than', and most superlatives follow the word 'the'.

#### • Two Syllable Adjectives

Now let's look at a chart showing the comparative and superlative forms of the word for adjectives with two syllables. Comparative adjectives with two syllables can be formed by making the 'er' ending or by adding the words 'more' or 'less' before the adjective. For superlative adjectives, you make the 'est' ending but use the word 'most' or 'least' instead of 'more' or 'less'.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Нарру	Happier	Happiest
Crazy	Crazier	Craziest
Nervous	More/Less Nervous	Most/Least Nervous
Massive	More/Less Massive	Most/Least Massive
Quiet	Quieter or More/Less Quiet	Quietest or Most/Least Quiet

Example of Comparative Adjectives: This quiz is simpler than the last one.

Example of Superlative Adjectives: This is the most rapid method of delivery.

#### • Three or More Syllable Adjectives

The chart below shows the comparative and superlative forms of the word for adjectives that are three or more syllables long. In these cases, we always add 'more' or 'less' before a comparative adjective and 'most' or 'least' before a superlative adjective.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Notice again how the comparative adjectives are followed by 'than', and superlative adjectives follow the word 'the'."

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Mysterious	More/Less Mysterious	Most/Least Mysterious
Complicated	More/Less Complicated	Most/Least Complicated
Wonderful	More/Less Wonderful	Most/Least Wonderful

### • Irregular Adjectives

When using comparative and superlative adjectives, it is important to note that there are a handful of irregular adjectives that don't follow the rules above. The chart below shows these irregular adjectives along with their comparative and superlative forms.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Little (Amount)	Less	Least
Far (Distance)	Farther	Farthest
Far (Extent)	Further	Furthest
Many or Much	More	Most