

English With Nimafar

Comparatives & Superlatives

Overview:

- "Comparatives and Superlatives" is an Intermediate Grammar topic.
- At the end of this lesson, you will be able to use Comparatives and Superlatives in your daily conversations.

Date:
26/06/2023

What are Comparatives?

Comparatives are adjectives or adverbs expressing a higher degree of a quality or characteristic. For example, "bigger" is the comparative form of "big," and "more quickly" is the comparative form of "quickly."

Why do we use Comparatives?

Comparatives are used to compare two things and express which one has a higher degree of a quality or characteristic. In other words, we use comparatives when we want to compare something/someone with something/someone else.

Comparatives/Superlatives: Types

- Mono-syllable Adjectives
- Multi-syllable Adjectives
- Irregular Adjectives

Comparatives: Mono-syllable Adjectives

Mono-syllable adjectives have only one syllable.

For example:

- Hot
- Big
- Ugly
- Fast
- Cold
- small
- short
- tall

In order to use comparatives with monosyllable adjectives, we add the suffix "er" in general. Take a look at the spelling rules below.

Comparatives: Mono-syllable Spelling Rules

- If the adjective ends in a **consonant-vowel-consonant**, double the final consonant and add "-er".
 - Big => Bigger
 - Hot => Hotter
 - Wet => Wetter
 - Thin => Thinner
- If the adjective ends in a **consonant + "-y"**, change "-y" to "-i", then add "-er".
 - Silly => Sillier
 - Lucky => Luckier
 - Happy => Happier
 - Lazy => Lazier
- If the adjective ends in **"-e"**, only add "-r".
 - Large => Larger
 - Polite => politer
 - Brave => Braver
 - Nice => Nicer
- And generally, we add "-er" when none of the situations above exists.
 - Long => Longer
 - Fast => Faster
 - Short => Shorter
 - Tall => Taller

Adjectives with more than one syllable are known as Multisyllable.

Multi-syllable Adjectives in general

We add the determiner "more" before multi-syllable adjectives in general.

- Beautiful => More beautiful
- Expensive => More expensive
- Intelligent => More intelligent
- Important => More important

Irregular Comparatives

Irregular adjectives do not follow the rules we have discussed so far. You have to **memorize** their comparative and superlative forms.

Some irregular adjectives:

Adjective	Comparative
Good	Better
Bad	Worse
Far	Farther/Further
well	better

Superlatives

A superlative adjective compares one thing/person/place to all the others in the same group. In other words, We use superlatives when we want to compare a thing/person among a group of them.

We use "the" before the adjective, and we add the suffix "-est" in general.

Look at the spelling rules below.

Superlatives: Mono-syllable Adjectives

- If the adjective ends in a **consonant-vowel-consonant**, double the final consonant and add "-est".
 - Big => The biggest
 - Hot => The hottest
 - Wet => The wettest
- If the adjective ends with a **consonant + "-y"**, change "-y" to "-i", then add "**-est**".
 - Dry => The driest
 - Happy => The happiest
 - Silly => The silliest
- If the adjective ends in "**-e**", add "-st".
 - Large => The largest
 - Nice => The nicest
 - Brave => The bravest
- And generally, we add "-est" when none of the situations above exists.
 - Short => The shortest
 - Tall => The tallest
 - Small => The smallest

Superlatives: Multi-syllable Adjectives

When we have a multi-syllable adjective and it does not end in "-y", we can form its corresponding superlative adjective by using the determiner "**most**" in the structure "the + most + Adj.".

- Beautiful => The most beautiful
- Wonderful => The most wonderful
- Important => The most important
- Intelligent => The most intelligent

Irregular Superlatives

Irregular adjectives do not follow the rules we have discussed so far. You have to **memorize** their comparative and superlative forms.

Some irregular superlatives:

Adjectives	Superlatives
Good	The best
Bad	The worst
Well	The best
Far	The farthest/The furthest

Advanced Tips for Advanced Learners

- Than: "Than" is a **preposition** that is used to introduce the **second** part of a comparison.
 - Jack is taller **than** David.
 - David is shorter **than** Jack.
 - This course is more expensive **than** the other one.
 - The Math exam was more difficult **than** the Chemistry exam.
- Less: We use "less" in multi-syllable comparatives to show a lower degree or level of a quality or characteristic. (The opposite of "more")
 - Ted is searching for a **less** demanding career.
 - I am looking for a **less** expensive laptop.
- Least: We use "Least" to modify a noun as having the lowest level of a quality.
 - He is my **least** favourite person.
 - This car is the **least** expensive one in this catalogue.
- Exceptions: Sometimes, we have some exceptions like the word "shy". The comparative form of "shy" is "**shyer**" while it is expected to be "~~shier~~"
- We use "more" before adverbs to make them comparative.
 - He speaks **more** fluently than I do.
- We use "the most" before adverbs to make them superlatives
 - She sings **the most** beautifully out of all the contestants.

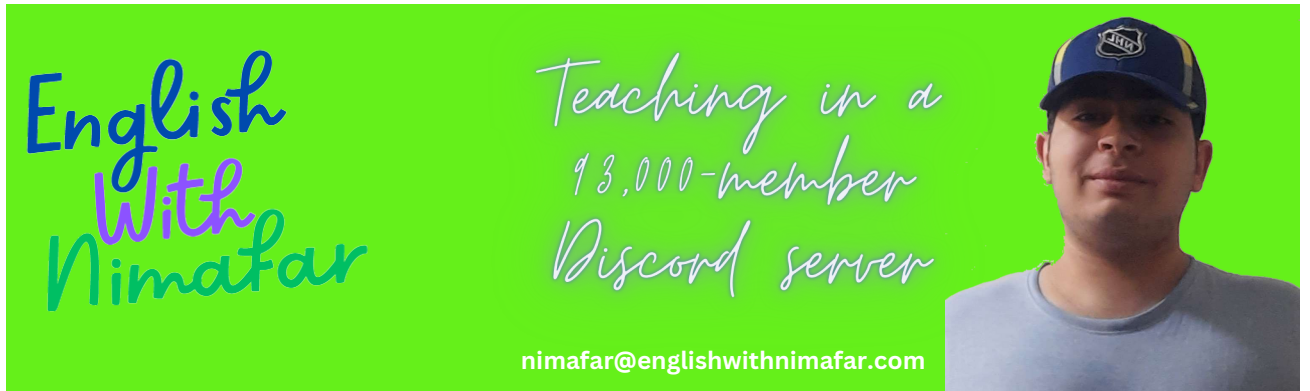
Examples

1. This coffee is hotter than the one I had yesterday.
2. She is taller than her sister.
3. The red dress is more beautiful than the blue one.
4. That restaurant was busier than the one across the street.
5. His car is faster than mine.
6. This song is louder than the last one.
7. This book is more interesting than the one I read last week.
8. She is less patient than her mother.
9. The blueberry pie is sweeter than the apple pie.
10. He is stronger than his brother.
11. That team played better than they did last game.
12. The cat is cuddlier than the dog.
13. This jacket is warmer than my old one.
14. Her shoes are more comfortable than mine.
15. That club was more crowded than I expected.
16. This is the best pizza I've ever had.
17. She is the smartest person in our class.
18. The Taj Mahal is the most beautiful building I've ever seen.
19. The Grand Canyon is the most breathtaking place I've ever visited.
20. He is the funniest person I know.
21. This is the worst movie I've ever watched.
22. That was the most delicious meal I've ever had.
23. She is the most patient person I've ever met.
24. That was the best concert I've ever been to.
25. The Eiffel Tower is the most iconic landmark in Paris.
26. This is the most comfortable bed I've ever slept in.
27. That was the most exciting game I've ever seen.
28. Her recipe is the most mouth-watering I've ever tried.
29. This is the most peaceful place I've ever been.
30. That was the most memorable vacation I've ever taken.
31. **The more I practice, the better I get at playing the piano.**
32. **She is becoming more and more successful in her career with each passing year.**
33. **The faster we move, the sooner we'll reach our destination.**
34. **The more questions I ask, the deeper my understanding becomes.**
35. **The more I travel, the more I realize how vast and diverse the world truly is.**
36. **Out of all the books I've read this year, "The Great Gatsby" was the most captivating.**
37. **She is the most talented musician I've ever had the pleasure of hearing.**
38. **This restaurant serves the most delectable cuisine I've ever tasted.**
39. **His presentation was the most engaging of all the speakers at the conference.**

40. **The view from the top of the mountain was the most breathtaking I've ever seen.**

Sentences in **Bold** are considered **more advanced**.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED FOR [ENGLISHWITHNIMAFAR.COM](https://www.englishwithnimafar.com) AND **NIMAFAR**



English
With
Nimafar

Teaching in a
13,000-member
Discord server

nimafar@englishwithnimafar.com

