

Comparatives and Superlatives

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Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Grammar focus	
Structure	Use and examples
Comparative: short adjectives	Use -er + than with most one-syllable adjectives and some common two-syllable adjectives , especially adjectives ending in -y , and words such as narrow and quiet . Examples: cheap -> cheaper than, small -> smaller than, happy -> happier than. This bag is cheaper than that one. My room is smaller than yours.
Comparative: long adjectives	Use more + adjective + than with most adjectives of two or more syllables , especially longer adjectives that do not end in -y . Examples: difficult -> more difficult than, interesting -> more interesting than, reliable -> more reliable than. This exercise is more difficult than the last one.
Superlative: short adjectives	Use the + adjective + -est with most one-syllable adjectives and some common two-syllable adjectives , especially adjectives ending in -y , and words such as narrow and quiet . Examples: cheap -> the cheapest, young -> the youngest, happy -> the happiest. This is the cheapest ticket. She is the youngest student in the class.
Superlative: long adjectives	Use the most + adjective with most adjectives of two or more syllables , especially longer adjectives that do not end in -y . Examples: the most expensive, the most useful, the most reliable. This is the most useful app on my phone.
Spelling changes	Double the final consonant in words like big : bigger, biggest. Change -y to -ier/-iest : happy, happier, happiest. Drop final -e : large, larger, largest.
Irregular adjectives	Some adjectives are irregular. Examples: good, better, the best. Bad, worse, the worst.
as...as / not as...as	Use as + adjective + as when things are equal. Use not as + adjective + as when they are different. Examples: This bag is as heavy as that one. My flat is not as big as yours.

Core idea: use comparatives to compare two people or things. Use superlatives to compare one person or thing with a whole group. Use **than** after comparatives and **the** before most superlatives.

2. Choose the correct form

1. This café is cheaper / cheapest than the one near my house.
2. Today is the hotter / hottest day of the year.
3. My new phone is more reliable / most reliable than my old one.
4. This is the more interesting / most interesting book in the shop.
5. The blue bag is bigger / biggest than the black one.
6. She is better / best at maths than I am.
7. This road is the narrower / narrowest road in the village.
8. The train is as fast as / faster as the bus today.
9. My flat is not as large than / as large as yours.
10. That was the worse / worst film I have seen this year.

3. Match the sentence to the grammar reason. Two reasons are not used.

Sentence	Reason
1. This lesson is easier than yesterday's lesson.	A. Superlative with the most
2. It is the most popular café in town.	B. Comparative with -er + than
3. That was the best meal of the holiday.	C. not as + adjective + as
4. My laptop is not as light as yours.	D. Irregular superlative
5. The city centre is more crowded than before.	E. Comparative with more + adjective
6. This is the smallest room in the flat.	F. Superlative with the + -est
	G. Passive voice
	H. Article before a general plural noun

4. Correct the mistakes

Correct the mistake in each sentence. More than one correct answer may be possible.

1. This bag is more cheap than that one.

2. He is the tallest than his brother.

3. Today is hotter than yesterday.

4. This is most expensive hotel in the city.

5. My English is gooder than it was last year.

6. This exercise is as difficult than the last one.

7. That was the worse journey of my life.

8. London is bigger that Cardiff.

5. Complete the mini-dialogues

1. A: Is your new flat small?
B: No, it is _____ (big) than my old one.
2. A: Which restaurant should we choose?
B: The Italian one is _____ (cheap) than the French one.
3. A: Is this exercise easy?
B: No, it is _____ (difficult) than the last one.
4. A: Who is the best student in the class?
B: I think Ana is _____ (good).
5. A: Is the train slow?
B: No, it is as _____ (fast) as the bus.
6. A: Which room is best for studying?
B: This is _____ (quiet) room in the house.

6. Complete with the comparative or superlative form

Use the adjective in brackets. Add **than** or **the** where needed.

1. This street is _____ (busy) the street near my home.
2. It was _____ (bad) meal I had on holiday.
3. My suitcase is _____ (heavy) yours.
4. This is _____ (comfortable) chair in the room.
5. Her new job is _____ (stressful) her old job.
6. This village is _____ (quiet) place I know.
7. The exam was _____ (easy) I expected.
8. That was _____ (good) coffee in the café.
9. My bedroom is not as _____ (bright) as the living room.
10. The second film was _____ (funny) the first one.

7. Which meaning is correct?

Sentence	Correct meaning
1. This hotel is cheaper than that one.	A. This hotel costs less. / B. This hotel costs the most.
2. This is the cheapest hotel in the town.	A. It costs less than all the others. / B. It costs the same as the others.
3. My bag is as heavy as yours.	A. The bags have similar weight. / B. My bag is heavier.
4. My bag is not as heavy as yours.	A. My bag is lighter. / B. My bag is the heaviest.
5. This exercise is more difficult than the last one.	A. This exercise is harder. / B. The last exercise is harder.
6. That was the worst meal of the week.	A. No meal was worse. / B. It was better than the others.

8. Speaking practice

1. Which is better for learning English: short lessons or long lessons?
2. What is the most useful app on your phone?
3. Is your town more crowded than it was five years ago?
4. What is the best meal you have had recently?
5. Are online lessons as useful as face-to-face lessons?
6. What is the most expensive thing you have bought this year?
7. Which is easier for you: speaking or writing?
8. What is the worst kind of weather for travelling?

9. Write your own sentences

1. Write one sentence with a comparative adjective and than.

2. Write one sentence with a superlative adjective.

3. Write one sentence with more + adjective + than.

4. Write one sentence with the most + adjective.

5. Write one sentence with as...as or not as...as.

10. Vocabulary and comparison sentence practice

Choose five adjectives from the word bank. Write one new sentence for each adjective. Try to use a comparative or superlative form.

Word bank: cheap, expensive, busy, quiet, comfortable, difficult, easy, useful

Adjective	Your comparison sentence
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

11. Error-checking challenge

Read the paragraph. Find and correct seven mistakes with comparatives and superlatives.

Last weekend, I visited two cafés near my flat. The first café was more cheap than the second one, but it was also noisier. The second café had gooder coffee than the first café, and the chairs were more comfortable. My friend said it was the most quiet than the first café, but I disagreed. It was not as relaxing than the small café near the park. The tables were largeer than the tables in the first café, and the Wi-Fi was better. In the end, I thought the small café was the goodest place to read.

12. Useful reminders

Do not say	Say	Why?
This phone is more cheap than mine.	This phone is cheaper than mine.	Use -er with many short adjectives.
She is the happiest person here.	She is the happiest person here.	Change -y to -iest in many superlatives.
This is most expensive bag.	This is the most expensive bag.	Use the before most superlatives.
My room is as big than yours.	My room is as big as yours.	Use as + adjective + as.
That film was gooder than the first one.	That film was better than the first one.	Good has an irregular comparative form.
It was the worse day of the trip.	It was the worst day of the trip.	Bad has an irregular superlative form.

Answer Key

Comparatives and Superlatives | A2-B1

2. Choose the correct form

1. cheaper - comparative with -er + than.
2. hottest - superlative with the + -est.
3. more reliable - comparative with more + adjective.
4. most interesting - superlative with the most.
5. bigger - comparative with -er + than.
6. better - irregular comparative.
7. narrowest - superlative with the + -est.
8. as fast as - use as + adjective + as.
9. as large as - use not as + adjective + as.
10. worst - irregular superlative.

3. Match the sentence to the grammar reason

1. B - Comparative with -er + than.
2. A - Superlative with the most.
3. D - Irregular superlative.
4. C - not as + adjective + as.
5. E - Comparative with more + adjective.
6. F - Superlative with the + -est.
- G and H are not used.

4. Correct the mistakes

Teacher note: accept any grammatical correction that preserves the meaning.

1. This bag is cheaper than that one.
2. He is taller than his brother.
3. Today is hotter than yesterday.
4. This is the most expensive hotel in the city.
5. My English is better than it was last year.
6. This exercise is as difficult as the last one.
7. That was the worst journey of my life.
8. London is bigger than Cardiff.

Answer Key continued

Comparatives and Superlatives | A2-B1

5. Complete the mini-dialogues

1. bigger.
2. cheaper.
3. more difficult.
4. the best.
5. fast.
6. the quietest.

6. Complete with the comparative or superlative form

1. busier than.
2. the worst.
3. heavier than.
4. the most comfortable.
5. more stressful than.
6. the quietest.
7. easier than.
8. the best.
9. bright.
10. funnier than.

7. Which meaning is correct?

1. A - This hotel costs less.
2. A - It costs less than all the others.
3. A - The bags have similar weight.
4. A - My bag is lighter.
5. A - This exercise is harder.
6. A - No meal was worse.

11. Error-checking challenge

Last weekend, I visited two cafés near my flat. The first café was cheaper than the second one, but it was also noisier. The second café had better coffee than the first café, and the chairs were more comfortable. My friend said it was quieter than the first café, but I disagreed. It was not as relaxing as the small café near the park. The tables were larger than the tables in the first café, and the Wi-Fi was better. In the end, I thought the small café was the best place to read.

Teacher note

For A2-B1 learners, keep the contrast clear: comparatives compare two people or things, while superlatives compare one person or thing with a group. Teach *than* after comparatives and *the* before most superlatives. Do not overload this level with advanced comparative structures.