

# COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Adjectives are words that give us information about names. Adjectives can be in different grades of intensity.

## POSITIVE FORM

This grade is the **simplest** grade of adjectives. It gives us information about the name but without being too specific.

Examples:

John is tall.      Tara is fast.      Luis is handsome.      My room is clean.      The ball is big.  
*John es alto.      Tara es rápida.      Luis es guapo.      Mi habitación está limpia.      La pelota es grande.*

## COMPARATIVE FORM

When we are comparing two names we normally use adjectives. When we use comparison, we can do it in superiority, inferiority or equality.

### SUPERIORITY

We use this form to give information about one name being **superior** in quality than another name. We use the comparative form + than.

#### Comparative form + than

Examples:

Peter is taller than Mark.      FC Barcelona is better than Real Madrid.      These houses are bigger than those.  
*Pedro es más alto que Mark.      El FC Barcelona es mejor que el Real Madrid.      Estas casas son más grandes que esas.*

### INFERIORITY

We use this form to give information about one name being **inferior** in quality than another name. We use "not as" + positive form + as or "less" + positive + than.

#### Not as + positive form + as // less + positive form + than

Examples:

Peter is not as tall as Mark.      Your house is less clean than mine.      These houses are not as big as those.  
*Pedro no es tan alto como Mark.      Tu casa está menos limpia que la mía.      Estas casas no son tan grandes como esas.*

### EQUALITY

We use this form to give information about one name being **equal** in quality than another name. We use the form "as" + positive form + "as".

#### As + positive form + as

Examples:

You are as fast as me.      She is as pretty as you.      My room is as big as yours.  
*Tú eres tan rápido como yo.      Ella es tan guapa como tú.      Mi habitación es tan grande como la tuya.*

#### WARNING!

You may see the form "not as + positive form + as" as a comparative of equality instead of inferiority. I consider it is an inferiority comparative because it's a synonym of saying "less...than" and it's telling us that the name we are talking about is inferior in quality than the other name, not equal.

## SUPERLATIVE

This is the highest form of the adjective. We use to specify that the name we are talking about is superior in quality than every other name of that category. We use the form "the" + Superlative form.

### The + superlative form

Examples:

You are the fastest.  
*Tú eres el más rápido.*

She is the prettiest.  
*Ella es la más guapa.*

My room is the biggest.  
*Mi habitación es la más grande.*

#### WARNING!

When the adjective comes with a possessive with don't use "the".

Ex: His tallest son is Bruce.

## FORM

We follow the following rules to build the comparative and superlative forms.

1. For one syllable adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
FAST	Adds "-er" - FASTER	Adds "-est" - FASTEST

2. For one syllable adjectives that end with "-e":

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
NICE	Adds "-r" - NICER	Adds "-st" - NICEST

3. For one syllable adjectives that end with a short vowel + consonant:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
BIG	Adds "-er" and doubles the consonant - BIGGER	Adds "-est" and doubles the consonant - BIGGEST

4. For two syllable adjectives that end with "-y":

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
PRETTY	Changes "-y" for "-ier" - PRETTIER	Changes "-y" for "-iest" - PRETTIEST

5. For adjectives with two or more syllables:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
INTELLIGENT	Adds "more" or "less" before it - MORE INTELLIGENT - LESS INTELLIGENT	Adds "The most" or "The least" before it - THE MOST INTELLIGENT - THE LEAST INTELLIGENT

6. Irregular adjectives don't follow any rule:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
GOOD	BETTER	BEST
BAD	WORSE	WORST
FAR	FURTHER	FURTHEST

7. There are adjectives that don't have comparative or superlative form because they represent the extreme of that quality.

Excellent - Freezing - Dead - Unique - Married - Domestic...