

## COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE RULES

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### One-syllable adjectives –

Form the comparative and superlative forms of a one-syllable adjective by adding –er for the comparative form and –est for the superlative.

One-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
tall	taller	tallest
old	older	oldest
long	longer	longest

- Henry is taller than Bill.
- Joan is the shortest of all the students.
- Bob is older than Jose.
- Of the twelve drivers, John was the oldest.
- My hair is thicker than Janet's hair.
- His explanation is the strangest one I've heard.

If the one-syllable adjective ends with an e, just add –r for the comparative form and –st for the superlative form.

One-Syllable Adjective with Final -e	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
large	larger	largest
wise	wiser	wisest

- Mary's house is larger than our house.
- Mary's house is the largest of all the houses on the street.
- Arthur is wiser than his brother.
- Arthur is the wisest person I know.

If the one-syllable adjective ends with a single consonant with a vowel before it, double the consonant and add –er for the comparative form; and double the consonant and add –est for the superlative form.

<b>One-Syllable Adjective Ending with a Single Consonant with a Single Vowel before It</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
big	bigger	biggest
thin	thinner	thinnest
fat	fatter	fattest

- My dog is bigger than your dog.
- My dog is the biggest of all the dogs in the neighborhood.
- Max is thinner than John.
- Of all the students in the class, Max is the thinnest.
- My mother is fatter than your mother.
- Mary is the fattest person I've ever seen.

### **Two-syllable adjectives.**

With most two-syllable adjectives, you form the comparative with more and the superlative with most.

<b>Two-Syllable Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
peaceful	more peaceful	most peaceful
pleasant	more pleasant	most pleasant
careful	more careful	most careful
thoughtful	more thoughtful	most thoughtful

- This morning is more peaceful than yesterday morning.
- Max's house in the mountains is the most peaceful in the world.
- Max is more careful than Mike.
- Of all the taxi drivers, Jack is the most careful.
- Jill is more thoughtful than your sister.
- Mary is the most thoughtful person I've ever met.

If the two-syllable adjectives ends with *-y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *-er* for the comparative form. For the superlative form change the *y* to *i* and add *-est*.

<b>Two-Syllable Adjective Ending with -y</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
happy	happier	happiest
angry	angrier	angriest
busy	busier	busiest

- John is happier today than he was yesterday.
- John is the happiest boy in the world.
- Max is angrier than Mary.
- Of all of John's victims, Max is the angriest.
- Mary is busier than Max.
- Mary is the busiest person I've ever met.

Two-syllable adjectives ending in –er, -le, or –ow take –er and –est to form the comparative and superlative forms.

<b>Two-Syllable Adjective Ending with -er, -le, or -ow</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
narrow	narrower	narrowest
gentle	gentler	gentlest

- The roads in this town are narrower than the roads in the city.
- This road is the narrowest of all the roads in California.
- Big dogs are gentler than small dogs.
- Of all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are the gentlest.

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### **Adjectives with three or more syllables.**

For adjectives with three syllables or more, you form the comparative with more and the superlative with most.

<b>Adjective with Three or More Syllables</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
generous	more generous	most generous
important	more important	most important

<b>Adjective with Three or More Syllables</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent

- John is more generous than Jack.
- John is the most generous of all the people I know.
- Health is more important than money.
- Of all the people I know, Max is the most important.
- Women are more intelligent than men.
- Mary is the most intelligent person I've ever met.

### **Exceptions:**

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Irregular adjectives.

<b>Irregular Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
little	less	least
many	more	most

- Italian food is better than American food.
- My dog is the best dog in the world.
- My mother's cooking is worse than your mother's cooking.
- Of all the students in the class, Max is the worst.

Two-syllable adjectives that follow two rules. These adjectives can be used with -er and -est and with more and most.

<b>Two-Syllable Adjective</b>	<b>Comparative Form</b>	<b>Superlative Form</b>
clever	cleverer	cleverest
clever	more clever	most clever
gentle	gentler	gentlest
gentle	more gentle	most gentle
friendly	friendlier	friendliest
friendly	more friendly	most friendly



Two-Syllable Adjective	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
quiet	quieter	quietest
quiet	more quiet	most quiet
simple	simpler	simplest
simple	more simple	most simple

- Big dogs are gentler than small dogs.
- Of all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are the gentlest.
- Big dogs are more gentle than small dogs.
- Of all the dogs in the world, English Mastiffs are the most gentle.