

# Comparatives and superlatives of superiority

## Introduction



Sam is **taller than** his sister.



The white egg is **the biggest** and the red egg is **the smallest**.

## Definition and use

We use comparative adjectives to compare two things or people.

We use superlative adjectives to compare more than two things or people.

## Construction

The construction usually depends on the number of syllables.

Comparatives:

One-syllable	adjective + 'er' + 'than' <b>colder than</b>	Sweden is <b>colder than</b> France.
Two-syllables and ending in a consonant and 'y'	adjective + 'er' + 'than' <b>busier than</b>	I'm <b>busier than</b> my boss.
More than two syllables	'more' + adjective + 'than' <b>more expensive than</b>	Cars are <b>more expensive than</b> motorbikes.

## Superlatives:

One-syllable	'the' + adjective + 'est' <b>the coldest</b>	Antarctica is <b>the coldest</b> place in the world.
Two-syllables and ending in a consonant and 'y'	'the' + adjective + 'est' <b>the busiest</b>	September is <b>the busiest</b> month for us.
Others with two syllables	'the most' + adjective <b>the most honest</b>	She's <b>the most</b> honest person in the department.
More than two syllables	'the most' + adjective <b>the most expensive</b>	This is <b>the most</b> expensive car in the world.

One vowel and one consonant - double and add 'est'	More than one vowel or consonant - add 'est'	Ends in 'e' - add 'st'	Change 'y' to 'i' and add 'est'
big - the biggest thin - the thinnest wet - the wettest	steep - the steepest rich - the richest near - the nearest	nice - the nicest wide- the widest close - the closest	dry - the driest pretty - the prettiest happy - the happiest

Sometimes we use both in one sentence. For example:  
England is **bigger than** Belgium but France is **the biggest**.

Adjective	Comparative adjective	Superlative adjective
big	<b>bigger</b>	<b>the biggest</b>
cheap	<b>cheaper</b>	<b>the cheapest</b>
pale	<b>paler</b>	<b>the palest</b>
funny	<b>funnier</b>	<b>the funniest</b>
good	<b>better</b>	<b>the best</b>
bad	<b>worse</b>	<b>the worst</b>

## Irregular adjectives

good -> better

bad -> worse

far -> further

## Examples



Simon is **younger than** Todd.



This box is **smaller and heavier than** the blue box.



Quality is **more important than** price.



I have **the worst** office in the department!



They have four daughters. **The oldest** is nine and **the youngest** is one.



Janette's present is **bigger than** Holly's.



My apartment is **more modern than** my house.



The weather today is **better than** yesterday. We often have **the best** weather in September.



The pink flower is **the prettiest**.



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