



GRAMMAR: COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

There are three types of comparison in English: superiority, equality and inferiority (superioridad, igualdad e inferioridad).

1. Comparativo de superioridad (más...que...)

- We use the comparative to compare two things or two people.

Example: John is taller than Patrick.

- We use the superlative to compare more than two things or more than two people that belong to the same group.

Example: Paul is the tallest **of all**./ Anna is the most beautiful girl **in/ of** the class.

- Depending on the number of syllables of the adjective, we form the comparison in different ways.

a) One syllable (short adjectives)

	<u>Comparative:</u> Adjective + -er + than	<u>Superlative:</u> The + adj. + -est
Tall	Taller than	The tallest
Wide	Wider than	The widest
Big	Bigger than	The biggest

b) One and two-syllable adjectives ending in consonant + -y

	<u>Comparative:</u> Adj. + -ier + than	<u>Superlative:</u> The + adj. + -iest
Dry	Drier than	The driest
Friendly	Friendlier than	The friendliest
Happy	Happier than	The happiest

*This form is the most frequent, although the following is also accepted:

Friendly/ More friendly than/ The most friendly
Happy/ More happy than/ The most happy

c) Two or more syllables (long adjectives)

	<u>Comparative:</u> More + adj. + than	<u>Superlative:</u> The + most + adj.
Modern	More modern than	The most modern
Expensive	More expensive than	The most expensive

Examples:

- a. A cat is **fast**, a tiger is **faster** but a cheetah is **the fastest**.
- b. A car is **heavy**, a truck is **heavier**, but a train is **the heaviest**.
- c. A park bench is **comfortable**, a restaurant chair is **more comfortable**, but a sofa is the **most comfortable**.

d) Adverbs also have comparative and superlative forms

	Comparative	Superlative
Fast	Faster than	The fastest
Happily	More happily than	The most happy

e) Irregular comparatives and superlatives

	Comparative	Superlative
Good/ Well	Better than	The best
Bad/ Badly	Worse than	The worst
Far	Farther than	The farthest
Many/ Much	More than	The most
Little	Less than	The least

2. Comparativo de igualdad (tan..como...)

- It is always constructed in the same way, without considering the number of syllables of the adjective or adverb.

a) As + adjective/ adverb + as

Mike is as funny as Tom. (adjective)
She works as hard as you do. (adverb)

b) Not as + adjective/ adverb + as

She is not as intelligent as you. (adjective)
Chris doesn't drive as carefully as I do. (adverb)

3. Comparativo de inferioridad (menos...que...)

- It is always constructed in the same way, without considering the number of syllables of the adjective.

	<u>Comparative</u> Less + adj. + than	<u>Superlative</u> The least + adj.
Fat	Less fat than	The least fat
Modern	Less modern than	The least modern
Expensive	Less expensive than	The least expensive

WORKSHEET

1) Fill in the gaps with the right comparative form of the adjectives given.

1. Our house is than yours. (big)
2. A rock is than a leaf. (heavy)
3. The princess is than the witch. (beautiful)
4. Tom is a student than Mary. (good)
5. Bicycles are than motorbikes. (safe)
6. Helen is than Mary. (happy)
7. A lion is than a cat. (dangerous)
8. My car is than yours. (fast)
9. I think golf is than football. (boring)
10. The blue car is as the black car. (expensive)
11. Cats are not as dogs. (intelligent)
12. Mr. Jones talks as Mr. Smith. (quietly)

2) Fill in the gaps with the superlative form of the adjectives given.

1. The desert of all is the Sahara and it's in Africa. (hot)
2. Mary is the girl in the class. (thin)
3. This is the shop in town. (large)
4. Ben was the person in his family. (noisy)
5. Elephants are the animals. (heavy)
6. Sam is the in the class. (popular)
7. That is the sofa in our house. (comfortable)
8. Which is the subject at school? (difficult)
9. Monday is the day of the week. (bad)
10. Jim is the player in the football team. (good)

3) Fill in the gaps with the comparative or the superlative form of the adjectives below.

1. This armchair is than the old one. (comfortable)
2. Trains are than aeroplanes. (slow)
3. I bought the souvenir I could afford. (expensive)
4. In this classroom there are girls than boys. (many)
5. Ann is the child in the family. (young)
6. That TV set is the of all. (cheap)
7. You are here than there. (safe)
8. Fifi is than Kate. (pretty)
9. This is thefilm I have ever seen. (exciting)
10. Tim is than Peter. (talented)