

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Adjectives have *comparative* and *superlative* forms that are used to express varying degrees of comparison. The *comparative* form is used when comparing two items, people, places or ideas. The *superlative* form is used when comparing more than two.

Example: Yesterday was **hotter than** today (comparative)
 Yesterday was the **hottest** day of the week (superlative)

For short adjectives (one or two syllables ending in -y) add ending *-er* and add *than* for the comparative and *-est* for the superlative. *Change -y to -i if the -y is preceded by a constant.

Example: icy - icier - iciest

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Short	Shorter	Shortest
Pretty	Prettier	Prettiest
Simple	Simpler	Simplest

IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS

<p>For longer adjectives (two, three, or more syllables) add <i>more</i> for comparative and <i>most</i> for superlative, before the adjective.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ADJECTIVE</th> <th>COMPARATIVE</th> <th>SUPERLATIVE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Intelligent</td> <td>More intelligent</td> <td>Most intelligent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Careless</td> <td>More careless</td> <td>Most careless</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carefully</td> <td>More carefully</td> <td>Most carefully</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE	Intelligent	More intelligent	Most intelligent	Careless	More careless	Most careless	Carefully	More carefully	Most carefully	<p>Some adjectives have specific alternatives for their comparative and superlative forms.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ADJECTIVE</th> <th>COMPARATIVE</th> <th>SUPERLATIVE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Good/well</td> <td>Better</td> <td>Best</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bad</td> <td>Worse</td> <td>Worst</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little</td> <td>Less</td> <td>Least</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE	Good/well	Better	Best	Bad	Worse	Worst	Little	Less	Least
ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE																							
Intelligent	More intelligent	Most intelligent																							
Careless	More careless	Most careless																							
Carefully	More carefully	Most carefully																							
ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE																							
Good/well	Better	Best																							
Bad	Worse	Worst																							
Little	Less	Least																							

PRACTICE EXERCISES

- Yesterday's exam was the _____ I'd ever seen.
 - hardest
 - harder
- Kobe beef is the _____ cut of beef in the world.
 - expensivest
 - most expensive
- For some, English may be a _____ language to learn than Spanish.
 - harder
 - more hard

Answers:

1. a 2.b 3.a