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GRAMMAR - The comparatives

Comparatives are used to compare two things and to highlight the superiority, inferiority or equality of one term to another.

SUPERIORITY	EQUALITY	INFERIORITY
a) short adjectives: [*] adjective + -ER THAN Example: Peter is taller than Sandra. b) Long adjectives: [*] MORE + adjective + THEN Example: A Ferrari is more expensive than a Mini.	short and long adjectives: AS + adjective + AS Example: English is as easy as German.	short and long adjective: LESS+adj + THAN Example: July is less cold than January.

* **short adjectives:** are 1-syllable adjectives and 2-syllable adjectives ending in **-y (ex: pretty)**.

* **long adjectives:** all the other adjectives.

Orthographic changes:

- If the adjective ends in **“y”** the **“y”** becomes **“i”**: **heavy- heavier**.
- If the adjective ends in **“e”** only an **“r”** is needed: **wise- wiser**.
- If the adjective ends with a **“single vowel + consonant”** the consonant is doubled and you add **“er”**: **big-bigger**.

Irregular forms:

These adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms.

- **Good/ well- better**. Example: the garden looks better now.
- **Bad/ badly- worse**. Example: is your teacher better? No, she is worse.
- **Far/ further**. Example: It's a long walk from here to the station. Further than I think.

* further= can also mean **“more”** or **“additional”**. Example: for further information check the website.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences using a comparative form.

1. It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere (quiet) quieter ?
2. The coffee is very weak. I like it a bit (strong) stronger.
3. The hotel is surprisingly big. I expected it to be (small) smaller.
4. The hotel is surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be (expensive) more expensive.
5. The weather is too cold in this country. I'd like to live somewhere (warm) warmer.
6. My job is a bit boring sometimes. I'd like to do something (exciting) more exciting.
7. I'm surprised how easy it is to use the computer. I thought it would be (difficult) more difficult.
8. Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do (good) better.
9. Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be (bad) worse.
10. I'm surprised we got here so quickly. I expected the journey to take (long) longer.
11. You're talking very loudly. Can you speak a bit (quietly) more quietly ?
12. You're standing too near the camera. Can you move a bit (far) further away?
13. You were a bit depressed but you look (happy) happier today.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using as...as.

1. I'm quite tall but you are taller. I'm not as tall as you.
2. My salary is high but yours is higher. My salary isn't as high as yours.
3. You know a bit about cars but I know more. You don't know as much as I do.
4. I'm very nervous but you are more. I'm not as nervous as you.
5. I feel tired and you too. I'm as tired as you.

Exercise 3. Rewrite these sentences so that they have the same meaning.

1. Jack is younger than he looks. Jack isn't as old as he looks.
2. I don't spend as much money as you. You spend more money than I do.
3. The station is nearer than I thought. The station isn't as far as I thought.

4. The meal doesn't cost as much as I expected. The meal _____.
5. I go out less than before. I don't _____.
6. Her hair isn't as long as it was. She has _____.

Exercise 4. Write the adjectives in brackets in the comparative form.

1. John Lennon was (old) **as older as** Paul McCartney.
2. Some people think the Met is (good) _____ the Louvre.
3. Eric was (afraid) _____ in Harlem _____ in the Subway.
4. Cats are (nice) _____ dogs.
5. Cartoons are (good) _____ music programmes.
6. The Empire State is (big) _____ the Chrysler Building.
7. Barcelona is (small) _____ Madrid, but (big) _____ Valencia.
8. Scotland is _____ (cold) than the South of England.
9. I like cats - they're _____ (interesting) than dogs.
10. Charity shops are _____ (cheap) than other shops.
11. Buy that MP3 player. It's _____ (good) than the other one.
12. I spend a lot of time with Petra - she's _____ (friendly) than the other students.
13. In winter, Venice is _____ (quiet) than in summer.
14. The maths exam was bad, but physics was even _____ (bad)!

GRAMMAR - The superlatives

Superlatives are used to express the highest degree of quality. We use a superlative adjective to describe

- After superlatives we use "in" with places (towns, buildings, etc.)

Example: what is the longest river in the world?

- We also use "in" for organizations and groups of people (a class/ team/ company)

Example: Who is the best student in the class?

- We use "of" for a period of time.

Example: What is the hottest month of the year?

Irregular forms

Good the best

Example: She's the best singer in the world.

Bad the worst

Example: He's the worst football player.

Far farthest

Example: Seattle is the farthest city from here.

El grado superlativo

El grado superlativo denota la calidad en el grado más alto y como en español, se usa "the" delante del adjetivo en la forma superlativa (véase más adelante).

Ejemplos:

Juan is the fastest .(Juan es el más rápido.)

Angela's room is the cleanest.(La habitación de Angela es la más limpia.)

I am the tallest.(Soy el más alto.)

New York is the biggest city in the United States.(Nueva York es la ciudad más grande de los Estados Unidos.)

Nota: Si el adjetivo es posesivo, no se usa "the". Además no se usa "the" si comparamos algo con si mismo.

Ejemplos:

His smartest student is Lisa.(Su estudiante más lista es Lisa.)

New York is coldest in January.(Nueva York es más frío en enero.)

Form (Forma)

Hay unas reglas para formar el comparativo y superlativo.

1. Para adjetivos de una sílaba:
2. Para adjetivos de una sílaba que terminan en "e":
3. Para adjetivos de una sílaba que terminan en consonante + vocal + consonante:
4. Para adjetivos de dos sílabas que terminan en "y":
5. Para adjetivos de dos o más sílabas:
6. Adjetivos irregulares:

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences. Use a superlative or comparative. Completa las oraciones usando superlativos o comparativos.

1. We stayed at _____Cheapest_____ hotel in the town (cheap).
2. Our hotel was ____cheaper_____ than all the others in the town (cheap).
3. The United States is very large but Canada is _____longer_____ (large).
4. What's _____Longest_____ river in the world? (long).
5. He was a bit depressed yesterday but he looks _____happy_____ today (happy).
6. Today it's an awful day. It is _____the worst_____ day of my life (bad).
7. What is ____the most popular_____ sport in your country? (popular).
8. Everest is ____the highest_____ mountain in the world (high).
9. This is _____the most enjoyable_____ holidays we have ever had (enjoyable).
10. I prefer this chair to the other one. It's ____more comfortable_____ (comfortable).

Exercise 2. Complete the chart. Completa la table con el comparativo o superlativo faltante.

Adjective Comparative Superlative

cold colder the coldest

high higher The highest

hot hotter the hottest

dangerous the most dangerous The most dangerous

good better The best

bad worse Worst

Exercise 3. Write the adjectives in brackets in the superlative form.

1. Samantha is the (pretty) ____prettiest_____ girl that Paul has ever met.
2. I think that King Kong was the (bad) ____worst_____ film ever!
3. Mounth Everest is the (high) __the most highest_____ mountain in the world.

4. Our English teacher is the (good) _best_____ teacher ever!
5. My room is the (clean) ___cleanest_____ room in my house.
6. Ron is the (clever) _most clever_____ person I've ever met.
7. The Millenium Star is one of the (expensive) most expensive_____ diamonds in the world.
8. David is _nicest_____ (nice) of the three brothers.
9. Why do you always buy _the most expensive_____ (expensive) dress in the shop?
10. What's _fastest_____ (quick) way to get to the town centre?
11. I think Venice is the most beautiful__ (beautiful) city in the world.
12. Sarah is _friendlist_____ (friendly) girl in my office.
13. Chemistry is my _worst_____ (bad) subject.
14. I think Imagine is ___the best_____ (good) song John Lennon wrote.