



**Nombre de alumno: Litzy Fernanda
Domínguez León**

**Nombre del profesor: Juan Manuel Jaime
Díaz**

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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 quiet ?
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 as know as and me.
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 don't spend as much as me.
3. The station is nearer than I thought. The station isn't as far as thought.
4. The meal doesn't cost as much as I expected. The meal is cheaper than I expected.
5. I go out less than before. I don't go out as often as before.
6. Her hair isn't as long as it was. She has less hair than before.

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

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

| SUPERLATIVE OF SUPERIORITY | |
|--|--|
| SHORT ADJECTIVES: THE + adjective + EST Example: Tom is the tallest boy of the school. | LONG ADJECTIVES: THE MOST + adjective Example: This is the most pleasant place on Earth. |

| SUPERLATIVE OF INFERIORITY |
|---|
| SHORT ADJECTIVES AND LONG ADJECTIVES: THE LEAST + adjective Example: This is the least interesting movie of the year. |

- 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:

| Comparativo | Superlativo |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| añade: "-er" ▶ faster | añade: "-est" ▶ fastest |

2. Para adjetivos de una sílaba que terminan en "e":

| Comparativo | Superlativo |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| añade: "-r" ▶ nicer | añade: "-st" ▶ nicest |

3. Para adjetivos de una sílaba que terminan en consonante + vocal + consonante:

| Comparativo | Superlativo |
|--|--|
| añade: consonante + "-er" <input type="radio"/> hotter | añade: consonante + "-est" <input type="radio"/> hottest |

4. Para adjetivos de dos sílabas que terminan en "y":

| Comparativo | Superlativo |
|--|--|
| sustituye "y" por: "-ier" <input type="radio"/> funnier | sustituye "y" por: "-iest" <input type="radio"/> funniest |

5. Para adjetivos de dos o más sílabas:

| Comparativo | Superlativo |
|---|---|
| añade: "more"/"less" <input type="radio"/> more beautiful <input type="radio"/> less beautiful | añade: "the most"/"the least" <input type="radio"/> the most beautiful <input type="radio"/> the least beautiful |

6. Adjetivos irregulares:

| Adjetivo | Comparativo | Superlativo |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> good | <input type="radio"/> better | <input type="radio"/> best |
| <input type="radio"/> bad | <input type="radio"/> worse | <input type="radio"/> worst |
| <input type="radio"/> far | <input type="radio"/> further | <input type="radio"/> furthest |

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

1. We stayed at _____ **the cheapest** _____ hotel in the town (**cheap**).
2. Our hotel was _____ **more cheapier** _____ than all the others in the town (**cheap**).
3. The United States is very large but Canada is _____ **the largest** _____ (**large**).
4. What's _____ **the longer** _____ river in the world? (**long**).
5. He was a bit depressed yesterday but he looks _____ **happier** _____ today (**happy**).
6. Today it's an awful day. It is _____ **the badest** _____ 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 _____ **the most comfofrtable** _____ (**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 | hoter | the hottest |
| dangerous | the most dangerous | The hottest |
| good | better | The best |
| bad | worse | The badest |

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) ___badest___ film ever!
3. Mounth Everest is the (high) ___higest___ mountain in the world.
4. Our English teacher is the (good) ___goodest___ teacher ever!
5. My room is the (clean) ___cleanest___ room in my house.
6. Ron is the (clever) ___long clever___ person I've ever met.
7. The Millenium Star is one of the (expensive) ___most expensivest___ diamonds in the world.
8. David is ___the nicest___ (nice) of the three brothers.
9. Why do you always buy _____most expensive___ (expensive) dress in the shop?
10. What's ___the quickest___ (quick) way to get to the town centre?
11. I think Venice is ___the most beatiful___ (beautiful) city in the world.
12. Sarah is _____the leas friendly___ (friendly) girl in my office.
13. Chemistry is my ___the badest___ (bad) subject.
14. I think Imagine is _____the goodest___ (good) song John Lennon wrote.

- "Too" and "enough" modify adjectives, adverbs and nouns.

"Too" means more than what is needed. "Enough" means sufficient.

Examples (adjectives): He is too old to play football with the kids.

Dave is intelligent enough to do the right thing.

Examples (adverbs): You're not working fast enough.

I don't have enough time.

Examples (nouns): He has too many friends.

He has too much patience.

- "Enough" comes after adjectives and adverbs:

Example (adjective): He isn't old enough to watch this program.

Example (adverb): We're not walking quickly enough.

- "Enough" may also precede nouns:

Example: We have enough money.

- "Too" comes before adjectives and adverbs:

Example (adjective): It's too hot to wear that coat.

Example (adverb): I was driving too fast.

- "Too" may also come before nouns when it is used with the expressions "too much" and "too many".

"Too much" is used before uncountable nouns.

Example: There is too much salt in this food.

- "Too many" is used before countable nouns.

Example: There are too many students in this classroom.

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences with "too" or "enough".

1. I'm leaving the coffee to cool for a minute because it is ___too___ hot to drink.
2. He isn't strong ___enough___ to lift that heavy box.
3. There aren't ___enough___ policemen in our town.
4. Do you have ___enough___ information to help me with this problem?
5. It is ___too___ difficult to do for a little child.
6. I do not have ___enough___ time to prepare dinner.
7. I 'm not buying the car because it is ___too___ expensive.
8. He isn't working hard ___enough___ to pass the exam.
9. My mum can't sleep because she drinks ___too___ much coffee.
10. She isn't old ___enough___ to start driving.

GRAMMAR - Adverbs

- An adverb is a word used to modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

For example:

She swims quickly.

(Here, the adverb "quickly" modifies the verb swims.)

She swims extremely quickly.

(Here, the adverb "extremely" modifies the adverb quickly.)

She is an extremely quick swimmer.

(Here, the adverb "extremely" modifies the adjective "quick".)

- Many adverbs are formed from adjectives. The basic rule is that -ly is added to the end of the adjective:

For example: slow- slowly.

- If the adjective already ends in -y, the -y usually changes to -i.

Example: unnecessary- unnecessarily.

- If the adjective ends with a consonant followed by -le, replace the final -e with -y on its own:

Example: terrible- terribly

Exercise 5. Complete the sentences with an adverb or an adjective. Use the words in the box.

quickly **safe** brilliant **loudly** late **careless** **hard** **happy** **easy** **slowly**

1. The bus drove ___quickly___ over the bridge.
2. You mustn't talk ___loudly___ in a theatre.
3. A _____careless___ person drove into that tree yesterday.
4. Many people think Pierce Brosnan is a ___brilliant_____ actor.
5. If you're ___happy_____, I'm happy.
6. Gretchen works ___hard___ on her homework every night.
7. The train leaves at 6.00. Don't be___late__!
8. I can smell gas. Is it ___safe_____ in here?
9. I couldn't do the first question, but the second question was _____easy_____.
10. The girl walked ___slowly___ through the park.

Exercise 6. Write a sentence with each one of the adverbs given.

1. loudly __ Lexa talks too loudly in the class
2. politely __She does things very politely
3. early-- eats breakfast very early
4. well __ Fernanda is a very good cook