

**1 You add -er for the comparative form and -est for the superlative form of one syllable words:**

cheap → cheaper → cheapest      hard → harder → hardest  
 These shoes are much cheaper than those. He works harder than most people.

If the word ends in -e you add -r and -st:

safe → safer → safest      large → larger → largest  
 This is the safest place. You need something much larger.

If they end in a single vowel and a consonant you double the consonant:

big → bigger → biggest      hot → hotter → hottest  
 It gets bigger every day. It's much hotter in summer.

**2 With two syllable adjectives ending in a consonant followed by -y you change the -y to -i and add -er or est:**

busy → busier → busiest      happy → happier → happiest  
 Friday is the busiest day of the week. You would be happier at home.

**3 You use more for the comparative and most for the superlative of most two syllable adjectives, all longer adjectives and all adverbs ending in -ly:**

careful → more careful → most careful      seriously → more seriously → most seriously  
 You should be more careful. You could have been more seriously injured.

**4 With these common two syllable adjectives and adverbs you can either add -er and -est, or use more and most:**

common    cruel    gentle    handsome    likely    narrow    pleasant    polite    simple    stupid

You should try to be gentler. You should try to be more gentle.

Note that two common adjectives - *quiet* and *clever* - only add -er and -est.

You cannot use *more* and *most* with these words.

It's much quieter living here. She's cleverer than her brother.

**5 A few common adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms:**

good/well    better    best  
 bad/badly    worse    worst  
 far    farther/further    farthest/furthest

You can ask him when you know him better. I feel much worse today.

**6 The comparative form is used:**

With *than* to compare two things directly (see Unit 64):

These shoes are much cheaper than those. She's cleverer than her brother.

To show a change of some kind:

It's much quieter living here. It gets bigger every day.

To compare something with a standard:

Bigger cars generally use a lot of petrol. The new computer games are more exciting.

**A Put the adjectives below into two groups:**

certain; careful; cheap, cold; dark; expensive; famous; full; great; green; hard; high; important; interested; interesting; kind; often; small; useful.

Group A: One syllable words with comparative in -er and superlative in -est:	Group B: Longer words using <i>more</i> and <i>most</i> :

Write down the comparative and superlative of four words from each group:

Group A: cheaper, cheapest	Group B: more famous, most famous

**B Write down the comparative and superlatives of these words:**

nice \_\_\_\_\_ busy \_\_\_\_\_  
 clever \_\_\_\_\_ late \_\_\_\_\_  
 happy \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_  
 quiet \_\_\_\_\_ bad \_\_\_\_\_  
 big \_\_\_\_\_ hot \_\_\_\_\_

**C Make the comparatives of these adjectives and use them in the sentences below:**

young easy important expensive useful bad heavy

- It's only a cheap bike. I couldn't afford anything \_\_\_\_\_.
- That small dictionary is all right, but a big one would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- I used to enjoy all kinds of sports when I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Let me help you with your bag. It's much \_\_\_\_\_ than mine.
- Luckily this year's exam is much \_\_\_\_\_ than last year's.
- I know the children often behave badly, but they were much \_\_\_\_\_ a few years ago when they were \_\_\_\_\_.
- Last winter was very cold but it seems this year will be even \_\_\_\_\_.
- Which is \_\_\_\_\_, grammar or vocabulary?
- My sister is three years \_\_\_\_\_ than me.
- The weather has been awful - and it's getting \_\_\_\_\_.
- Petrol is much \_\_\_\_\_ nowadays.