

Adjectives

Adjectives are words or phrases used to modify nouns. There are three degrees of adjectives: positive, comparative, and superlative. The **positive** form of an adjective is the infinitive form of the adjective (e.g. he is tall). The **comparative** form of an adjective is used for comparing two people or things (e.g. he is taller than me). The **superlative** is used for comparing one person or thing with every other member of their group (e.g. he was the tallest boy in the class). Adjectives make their comparative and superlative forms in different ways, depending on the root of the adjective itself.

1. Adjectives with one syllable

In general, if the adjective has one syllable, then the letters **-er** or **-est** are added:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
warm	warmer	warmest
quick	quicker	quickest
tall	taller	tallest

2. Adjectives with one syllable ending in e

If the adjective has one syllable and ends in **e**, the letters **-r** or **-st** are added:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
late	later	latest
nice	nicer	nicest
large	larger	largest

3. Adjectives with two syllables

Adjectives with two syllables vary. Some add **-er/-est** or **-r/-st**:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
feeble	feebler	feeblest

Some use the word **more** for the comparative and **most** for the superlative:

famous	more famous	most famous
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Many can add the ending or use **more** and **most**, like '**clever**':

clever	cleverer/ more clever	cleverest/ most clever
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4. Adjectives with spelling changes

Some one-syllable adjectives that end with a single consonant (e.g. big and sad) double this consonant before adding **-er**, or **-est**:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
sad	sadder	saddest

If the adjective ends in **y** (e.g. happy and greedy) change the **y** to an **i** and add **-er** or **-est**:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
greedy	greedier	greediest

Adjectives

Some common adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms that simply must be learned:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
bad	worse	worst
good	better	best
little	less	least
much	more	most

Adjective order

When using multiple adjectives to describe a noun there is a specific order for the adjectives.

This order is:

1. Determiners or limiters
2. Observations or subjective remarks
3. Size
4. Shape
5. Age
6. Colour
7. Origin or source of the noun
8. Material of the object
9. Qualifier or final limiter. Can be regarded as part of the noun.

Examples:

Determiner	Observation	Size	Shape	Age	Colour	Origin	Material	Qualifier	Noun
a	beautiful			new	black	Italian		sports	car
five	shiny						gold		rings
his		short	curly		blond				hair
some		big				Alaskan		winter	mittens
that	decrepit	little		old				hunting	cabin
those	expensive				colourful		silk		scarves
our	playful		round						puppy