

9 Reference

Comparison of adjectives

We use comparative adjectives to compare two or more things.

We use *than* to introduce the second noun in a comparative sentence.

*This book is **more interesting than** his first book.*

*This house is **bigger than** my old house.*

*The blue shoes are **more expensive than** the black ones.*

This is how we form comparative adjectives:

Regular one-syllable adjectives	add <i>-er</i>	<i>old</i> → older <i>cheap</i> → cheaper <i>new</i> → newer
Longer adjectives	put <i>more</i> before adjective	<i>interesting</i> → more interesting <i>comfortable</i> → more comfortable
Two-syllable adjectives that end in <i>-y</i>	remove <i>-y</i> and add <i>-ier</i>	<i>funny</i> → funnier <i>busy</i> → busier
Irregular adjectives	<i>good</i> <i>bad</i>	<i>better</i> <i>worse</i>

Superlative adjectives

We use superlative adjectives to compare one thing with all the others in a group.

*This house is **the biggest** in the street.*

*The blue shoes are **the most expensive**.*

We usually use *the* before a superlative:

*This is **the most interesting** book about mountain climbing in the library.*

This is how we form superlative adjectives:

Regular one-syllable adjectives	add <i>-est</i>	<i>old</i> → the oldest <i>new</i> → the newest
Longer adjectives	put <i>most</i> before adjective	<i>interesting</i> → the most interesting <i>comfortable</i> → the most comfortable
Two-syllable adjectives that end in <i>-y</i>	remove <i>-y</i> and add <i>-iest</i>	<i>funny</i> → the funniest <i>busy</i> → the busiest
Irregular adjectives	<i>good</i> <i>bad</i>	<i>the best</i> <i>the worst</i>

Spelling rules

Add *-r/-st* to adjectives that end in *-e*:

nice → **nicer/nicest**

large → **larger/largest**

With adjectives that end in consonant + *-y*, remove *-y* and add *-ier/-iest*:

busy → **busier/busiest**

heavy → **heavier/heaviest**

With adjectives that end in a short vowel + consonant, repeat the consonant and add *-er/-est*:

thin → **thinner/thinnest**

big → **bigger/biggest**

like/love/hate/prefer

We use *like/love/hate/prefer* with a noun (e.g. *tea, the cinema*) or the *-ing* form of another verb to discuss likes and preferences.

*I **love the theatre** but my friends **prefer going** to the cinema.*

We use *prefer* to talk about something we like more than another thing or things.

*She **prefers tea (to coffee)**. = She likes coffee but she really loves tea.*

*I **prefer tea to coffee**. I **prefer drinking** tea.*

We use *to*, not *than*, after *prefer*.

*She **prefers Mozart to** Beethoven.*

Key vocabulary

The arts

modern/traditional art painting

Performance arts: ballet, classical music, dance, film, opera, rap music, rock music, theatre

TV: documentary, talent show

Literature: novel, play, poetry

exhibition graffiti

Films

bad guy character film critic Oscar scene villain

Genres:

an action/adventure film a cartoon

a comedy a documentary a horror film

a love story a musical

a science fiction film a thriller



Listen to these words.

ACTIVE BOOK



see Writing bank page 143