



# Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

## Inglés

## LEARNING PATHWAY

- With this worksheet, you will put into practice and consolidate your knowledge on comparative and superlative adjectives.
- This topic is part of the unit related to adjectives and adverbs, as illustrated in the following figure.



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## INTRODUCTION

What are **adjectives**? Adjectives are words that **describe nouns**, providing us with **extra information**. Such information could be **height** (e.g. 'short' or 'tall') or **how old** someone (e.g. 'young' or 'old') or something is (e.g. 'new' or 'old'). Through adjectives, we can also know someone's **opinion** on a given topic (e.g. 'beautiful' or 'delicious'). At the same time, they allow us to recognize **how** someone **is feeling** (e.g. 'excited' or 'angry').

# CONTENTS

## Comparative Adjectives

We are going to use comparative **adjectives** for, as its name indicates, **comparing** two people, places, or things (Hall & Barduhn, 2016). Through this process, we will indicate what is/are the difference(s) between each other.

Comparative adjectives can be formed by **adding** the **suffix** '-er' or by adding the **words** 'more' and 'less' **before** the adjective (Hall & Barduhn, 2016), depending on what we want to transmit. We will know which form should be used by analyzing **the number of syllables** the word has. You will find some examples depicting what we just mentioned below:

ADJECTIVE	CHEAP	FAST	EXPENSIVE
COMPARATIVE	CHEAPER	FASTER	MORE EXPENSIVE

## How to form comparative adjectives

When the adjective has **only one syllable**

• -er	rich → richer
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When a short adjective **ends in -e**

• -r	safe → safer
------	--------------

When a short adjective ends in **a vowel + one consonant** (e.g.: slow)

• -er	near → nearer
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## Remember

Don't double 'W'

low → lower (**NOT** lower)

When the adjective has **two syllables** and **ends in -y**

y → i + -er

sleepy → sleepier

When the adjective is **longer than two syllables**

• more

dangerous → more dangerous

There are some exceptions to the patterns we have exposed so far: these are **irregular verbs**. Here we have some of them:

bad → worse

far → further OR farther  
(Both options are **possible**)

Additionally, we will have to use the word '**than**' after the comparative adjective for making comparisons.

Emma is taller **than** Mariah.  
This coffee is cheaper **than** that tea.

## Superlative Adjectives

On the other hand, we have **superlative adjectives**. We will use superlative adjectives for **comparing people** and **things** with all of the group **they are in** (Swan & Walter, 2001).

Some people think Chinese is **the most difficult** language to learn among all.

Or to talk about extremes (Hall & Barduhn, 2016):

Charlie is **the friendliest** boy I have ever met.



### Remember

We always use **'the'** before superlative adjectives.

## SOLVED ACTIVITIES

The following activities will help you to put into practice what you learned throughout this worksheet, giving you the opportunity to identify which area you need to reinforce.

- Read comprehensively.
  - Go over and use this worksheet to support you.
  - Do not look at the answer key until you finish the activities on your own. Challenge yourself!
  - If you have any questions on this topic, write them down and share them with your tutor.
- Good job!

1. Write **comparative** sentences.

**e.g.** Santiago is / expensive / Concepción.  
Santiago is **more expensive** than Concepción.

a. My brother is / thin / me.

---

b. Arsenal played / well / Chelsea.

---

c. My old school was / exciting / my new one.

---



To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called '**Comparative Adjectives**'. You will be able to correctly make comparisons after finishing them.

2. Write **superlative** sentences.

e.g. Is this **the most important** part of the test? (Important)

a. The \_\_\_\_\_ month to visit them is January. (good)

b. Santiago is \_\_\_\_\_ city in Chile. (polluted)

c. Last Monday was \_\_\_\_\_ day of the year. (cold)



To complete this activity, please check the examples in the segment called '**Superlative Adjectives**'. You will be able to correctly form superlatives after finishing them.

## Answer key

1.

- My brother is **thinner than** me.
- Arsenal played **better than** Chelsea.
- My new school is **more exciting than** the old one.

2.

- The best** month to visit them is January.
- Santiago is **the most polluted** city in Chile.
- Last Monday was **the coldest** day of the year.

## Test your knowledge

Here, a series of **fill-in-the-blank activities** are presented. You will have to complete the blank spaces with the **required information**. This activity will help you to confirm how much you have learned so far. If you have any questions, read and go over the text once again. If you still have doubts, please take notes and share them with your tutor. Remember: the main objective of this worksheet is that **you** learn. Good job!

### 1. Write the **comparatives** adjectives.

- |                |       |              |       |
|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| a. Big         | ..... | g. Heavy     | ..... |
| b. Small       | ..... | h. Beautiful | ..... |
| c. Strong      | ..... | i. Complex   | ..... |
| d. Interesting | ..... | j. Funny     | ..... |
| e. Weak        | ..... | k. Long      | ..... |
| f. Easy        | ..... | l. Noisy     | ..... |

### 2. Write the **irregular** comparative adjectives.

- |         |       |           |       |
|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| a. Far  | ..... | d. Little | ..... |
| b. Bad  | ..... | e. Many   | ..... |
| c. Well | ..... | f. Good   | ..... |

### 3. Write the **superlative** adjectives.

- |                |       |              |       |
|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| a. Safe        | ..... | g. Hungry    | ..... |
| b. Strange     | ..... | h. Careful   | ..... |
| c. Wide        | ..... | i. Important | ..... |
| d. Lazy        | ..... | j. Slim      | ..... |
| e. Dirty       | ..... | k. Boring    | ..... |
| f. Intelligent | ..... | l. Hot       | ..... |

### 4. Choose a **comparative** OR a **superlative**.

- Tom and Anna are ..... John. (tall)
- The kitchen is ..... room in the house. (cold)
- Russia is ..... country in Europe. (large)
- The sun is ..... the moon. (big)
- Mont Blanc is ..... all the other mountains in the Alps. (high)
- French fries are ..... option on this menu. (cheap)
- Bus travel is ..... air travel. (cheap)

## Answer key

1. Write the comparative adjectives.

- |                |                          |              |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| a. Big         | .....bigger.....         | g. Heavy     | .....heavier.....        |
| b. Small       | .....smaller.....        | h. Beautiful | .....more beautiful..... |
| c. Strong      | .....stronger.....       | i. Complex   | .....more complex.....   |
| d. Interesting | .....more interesting... | j. Funny     | .....funnier.....        |
| e. Weak        | .....weaker.....         | k. Long      | .....longer.....         |
| f. Easy        | .....easier.....         | l. Noisy     | .....noisier.....        |

2. Write the irregular comparative adjectives.

- |         |                            |           |                  |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| a. Far  | .....farther/.further..... | d. Little | .....less.....   |
| b. Bad  | .....worse.....            | e. Many   | .....more.....   |
| c. Well | .....better.....           | f. Good   | .....better..... |

3. Write the superlative adjectives.

- |                |                          |              |                      |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| a. Safe        | .....the safest.....     | g. Hungry    | ...the hungriest.... |
| b. Strange     | .....the strangest....   | h. Careful   | ..the most careful.. |
| c. Wide        | .....the widest.....     | i. Important | the most important   |
| d. Lazy        | .....the laziest.....    | j. Slim      | ...the slimmest..... |
| e. Dirty       | .....the dirtiest.....   | k. Boring    | ..the most boring... |
| f. Intelligent | ..the most intelligent.. | l. Hot       | ...the hottest..     |

4. Choose a comparative or a superlative.

- Tom and Anna are ...**taller than**.... John. (tall)
- The kitchen is .....**the coldest**..... room in the house. (cold)
- Russia is ...**the largest**..... country in Europe. (large)
- The sun is .....**bigger than**..... the moon. (big)
- Mont Blanc is .....**the highest**..... all the other mountains in the Alps. (high)
- French fries are ...**the cheapest**..... options on this menu. (cheap)
- Bus travel is .....**cheaper than**..... air travel. (cheap)



# SUMMARY

To summarize, **adjectives** are words made for **describing nouns**. Among all the different categories related to adjectives, we have the **comparative** and **superlative** ones. We will use comparative adjectives when we want **to compare two or more nouns**, which are not necessarily from the same group or category, while **superlative adjectives** will be used when we want to make a comparison between a noun with others of the same group or category, or talk about extremes.



## Key words

Grammar; Adjectives;  
Comparatives; Superlatives

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