

Comparative and superlative adjectives



+ -er/-est

We add **-er/-est** to short adjectives
(one-syllable adjectives):

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
cheap	cheaper	the cheapest
near	nearer	the nearest
long	longer	the longest



+ -r/-st

We add **-r/-st** to adjectives that end with **-e**:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
late	later	latest



+ -g → -gger

With short adjectives that end with one vowel and one
consonant (e.g. *big*), we double the consonant:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
big	bigger	the biggest
hot	hotter	the hottest
wet	wetter	the wettest



-w + -er / -est

We don't double **-w**:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
low	lower	lowest



A pocket guide to comparative and superlative adjectives

Make your own pocket
guide to comparative and
superlative adjectives by
following the instructions.

- Print page 1.
- Put page 1 back in the printer.
- Print page 2 on the other side of the paper.
- Cut along the dotted lines.
- Fold the paper.

You now have your pocket
guide to comparative and
superlative adjectives to take
with you anywhere.

You can find all of these
adjectives in your copy
of *Oxford Living Grammar*
Upper-intermediate.

Oxford Living GRAMMAR

upper-intermediate pocket guide

Comparative and superlative adjectives

more / most

We use **more / the most** before adjectives of two or more syllables:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
expensive	more expensive	the most expensive
beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
polluted	more polluted	the most polluted

-y → -ier / -iest

But note that with adjectives ending with -y (e.g. *happy*), we change -y to -ier / -iest:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
happy	happier	the happiest
lucky	luckier	the luckiest
easy	easier	the easiest
dirty	dirtier	the dirtiest

Irregular adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	further	the farthest
little	less	the least

fewer and less

Note that we use **fewer** with plural nouns, and **less** with uncountable nouns (e.g. *money*):

There are **fewer** shops in the centre of town than there used to be.
John earns **less** money than Mary.

Learn and practise grammar in context



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