

## Adjectives: Comparison

### • Comparatives

**IDENTITY:** as + ADJ + as *He is AS tall AS you (are)*  
 (all adjectives) so

Negative ⇒ *He is **not SO** clever AS | me*  
*I am*

**INFERIORITY:** less+ ADJ + than *He is LESS tall THAN you*

(all adjectives) NOTE.- **than** is only used in comparison and special expressions like “rather than”...

### SUPERIORITY:

#### • One-syllable adjectives add:

ADJ -er than *You're smaller THAN me*

NOTE.- Adjectives ending in Consonant + Vowel + Consonant  
 (1 or more) (only 1)

make the **last consonant**

**double:** *big* ⇒ *bigger*

*thin* ⇒ *thinner*, etc.

Doubling consonant			
(C)	+ C	+ V	+ C
B	I	G	GER
T	H	I	NER
tra	V	E	L LING
S	T	O	P PED

#### • More than two-syllable adjectives add:

more + ADJ + than *This exam is MORE difficult THAN that one*

#### • Two syllable adjectives :

⇒ Adjectives with **Latin origin** (see exceptions below) or

**ending in -ed, -ful, -less, -ous...** more + ADJ + than

EXAMPLES: *modern, wanted, painful, helpless, gorgeous, lustrous*

⇒ Rest of two syllable adjectives: those **ending in -y (-ier),**

**-er,-ow**, and the exception **simple** ADJ- er than

EXAMPLES: *prettier, cleverer, narrower, simpler*

#### • Before the comparative, you can use:

a bit a little much a lot far (= much)

### • Superlatives

Adjectives doing the **comparative in** - er

do the **superlative in** -est

Adjectives doing the **comparative in** more

do the **superlative in** most

They usually carry ‘the’ in front ⇒ the **cleverEST** in the class  
 the **MOST** beautiful in the world

### • Irregular comparison

good / <b>well</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	better	best
little	less	least
bad/ <b>badly</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	worse	worst
old	older / elder (1)	oldest / eldest
far	further / farther (2)	furthest / farthest

<sup>(1)</sup> You say ‘My elder brother’ but **not** ‘elder than’ *an elderly woman*

<sup>(2)</sup> ‘Further’ can also be used as ‘more’ or ‘additional’ (information, research...), but **not** ‘farther’

<sup>(3)</sup> The irregular **ADVERBS** **well** and **badly** have been included in the table above.

**Remember that adverbs follow different rules in comparison:**

1) **One-syllable** adverbs do their **comparatives in -er** and **superlatives in -est**

*He drives **faster** than you He drives **fastest** in the circuit.*

(ADJ-ADV same word – Fast/far/hard)

2) The rest of adverbs (two and more than two syllables) do their **comparatives** with **more** and **superlatives in most**.

*She drives **more carefully** now- She wasn't a **careful** driver*  
*She acts **most friendly** with me-She is **friendlier** now than she used to be*