

أفعل التفضيل The Superlative and the Comparative!

The superlative means: of, pertaining to, or noting the highest degree of the comparison of adjectives and adverbs. Smallest, best, and most carefully are the superlatives of small, good, and carefully. We are only learning the basic form of superlatives for adjectives in Arabic! Because they follow a basic form: the أَفْعَلْ pattern, where the three blanks are the root.

أَجْمَل ← جميل pretty; prettiest
أَطْوَل ← طويل tall; tallest
أَقَل ← قليل a little; the fewest

Note that superlatives don't take an ال even though they do in English (the largest, the smallest, etc.)

So here are the superlatives in action:

The biggest room أكبر غرفة

The best professor in the world أحسن أستاذ في العالم

Since it's indefinite, what if you want to say "a bigger room"...? Or "a better professor"...? Just reverse the order!

A bigger room غرفة أكبر

A better professor أستاذ أحسن

What if you want to say “a bigger room than his” or “a better professor than that mean one”, i.e. compare two things? JUST ADD A من

A better professor than that mean one أستاذ أحسن من هذا الأستاذ السيء

A bigger room than his [room] غرفة أكبر من غرفته

Note: If you are tempted to translate ‘A bigger room than his’ as غرفة أكبر منه, what you’re saying is a room that is (literally) bigger than he (physically) is, which is most rooms on Earth]

Practice! Translate the following into Arabic:

1. He is better than me.

2. This chapter is more difficult than the last chapter.

3. Lebanese food is the most delicious Arabic food.

4. This is a bigger dining room.

5. Arabic is easier than Spanish.

6. Today is the greatest day I've ever known.

7. Lady Gaga is more famous than Marie Curie.

8. That is the saddest thing I heard all day.

9. This towel is longer than your bedsheets!

10. This bed is the most expensive thing I own. But it is cheaper than your car!

Key:

1. He is better than me.

_____ هو أحسن مني. _____

2. This chapter is more difficult than the last chapter.

_____ هذا الدرس أصعب من الدرس الماضي. _____

3. Lebanese food is the most delicious Arabic food.

_____ الطعام اللبناني ألذ طعام عربي. _____

4. This is a bigger dining room.

_____ هذه غرفة سفرة أكبر. _____

5. Arabic is easier than Spanish (الأسبانية) .

_____ اللغة العربية أسهل من اللغة الأسبانية. _____

6. Today is the greatest day I've ever known.

_____ اليوم أحسن يوم عرفته في حياتي. _____

7. Lady Gaga is more famous than Marie Curie.

_____ لادي غاغا أشهر من ماري كيوري. _____

8. That is the saddest thing I heard all day.

_____ هذا أحزن شيء سمعته كل اليوم. _____

9. This towel is longer than your bedsheets!

_____ هذه الفوطة أطول من ملاياتك! _____

10. This bed is the most expensive thing I own. But it is cheaper than your car!

هذا السرير أغلى شيء أملكه. ولكنه أرخص من سيارتك!