

Comparatives and Superlatives

soft	softer	the softest
big	bigger	the biggest
nice	nicer	the nicest
short	shorter	the shortest
good	better	the best
expensive	more expensive	
	the most expensive	
appealing	less appealing	
	the least appealing	

1. We use **comparatives** to compare **2 things or 2 people**. (ex: **She** (= 1 person) is taller than **her husband** (= 1 person).)
2. **Superlatives** are used, however, to **show the difference between more** (= plus que) **than two things or more than two people**. (ex: Paris is the biggest city in France)
3. To form comparatives and superlatives you need to know the **number of the syllables in the adjective**. Syllables are like "sound beats".

The rules to form comparatives and superlatives:

1. One syllable adjective ending in a silent 'e' — nice

Comparative — add 'r': nice → nicer

- Superlative – add 'the' and 'st': nice → the nicest

2. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel (=voyelle) and one consonant (=consonne) – big

- Comparative – the consonant is doubled (x2) and 'er' is added: big→bigger
- Superlative – 'the' is added, the consonant is doubled(x2) and 'est' is added: big→ the biggest

3. One syllable adjective ending in more than (= plus que) one consonant or more than a vowel (or long vowels) ex: high, cheap, soft.

- Comparative – 'er' is added: high→ higher, cheap→cheaper, soft→ softer.
- Superlative – 'the' and 'est' are added – high→ the highest, cheap→ the cheapest, soft→the softest.

4. A two-syllable adjective ending in 'y' – happy

- Comparative – 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added: happy→happier
- Superlative – 'the' is added, 'y' becomes 'i' and 'est' is added – happy→ the happiest

5. Two syllables or more adjectives without (= sans) 'y' at the end – exciting

- Comparative – more + the adjective + than: exciting→ more exciting than
- Superlative – the most + the adjective: exciting→the most exciting

Examples:

- The Nile River is **longer** and **more famous than** the Thames.
- Egypt is much **hotter** than Sweden.
- Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world.
- This is one of **the most exciting** films I have ever seen.

	
Peter (6 years old)	Charley (5 months old)
Peter is older than Charley. Charley is younger than Peter.	

Irregular comparatives and superlatives

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
bad (mauvais)	worse	the worst
far(distance = loin physique)	farther	the farthest
far(extent= loin au figuré)	further	the furthest
good	better	the best
little (=peu)	less	the least
many (= beaucoup, dénombrable)	more	the most
much (= beaucoup, indénombrable)	more	the most

How to use comparatives and superlatives

Comparatives	Superlatives
Comparatives are used to compare two things or two people : <i>Alan is taller than John.</i>	Superlatives are used to compare more than two things or two people . Superlative sentences usually use 'the' : <i>Alan is the most intelligent.</i>

Similarities (= autant que)

To express similarities use the following structure:

... as + *adjective* + as ...

Examples:

- Mike is **as intelligent as** Nancy.
- Larry is **as popular as** Oprah.

Remarque: ici pas de différence entre les adjectifs, qu'ils soient courts, longs, se terminent en "y" ou pas, peu importe. La règle est toujours la même pour faire "autant/aussi que".