

What Are Adverbs That Compare?

Like adjectives, some adverbs have different forms to indicate a degree of comparison. The **Comparative Form** of an adverb compares two actions—one with the other. The **Superlative Form** of an adverb compares more than two actions. If the adverb only has one syllable add *-er* for the comparative form and add *-est* for the superlative form. When an adverb has more than one syllable or ends in *-ly*, add *more* to the beginning of the comparative form and *most* for the superlative form. Study the chart below to further understand the comparative use.

	Comparative	Superlative	Examples
One-syllable adverb	add <i>-er</i>	add <i>-est</i>	faster , fastest
More than one syllable	<i>more</i>	<i>most</i>	more often , most often
Adverb ends in <i>-ly</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>most</i>	more quickly , most quickly

Just like irregular verbs, there are some irregular adverbs—meaning they do not follow the formula shown above when used for comparing.

	Comparative	Superlative	Examples
well (good is an adjective)	better	best	feels better , feels best
badly (bad is an adjective)	worse	worst	feels worse , feels worst
little	less	least	cares less , cares least
far	farther	farthest	throws farther , throws farthest
much (many is an adjective)	more	most	more reckless , most reckless

NOTE: Notice that that *more*, *most*, and the added suffixes *-er* and *-est* are **NOT** mixed. For example, *most fastest* or *more better* are not proper forms of comparison.

Examples:

Incorrect: I sat **more close** to the window than Stuart did.

Correct: I sat **closer** to the window than Stuart did.

Study the image to the right. What can you compare?



Equestrian competition in China—2013—China Daily