

What Are Adjectives That Compare?

Like adverbs, some adjectives have different forms to indicate a degree of comparison. The **Comparative Form** of an adjective compares two things or two people—one with the other. The **Superlative Form** of an adjective compares more than two things or people. If the adjective only has one syllable add *-er* for the comparative form and add *-est* for the superlative form. When an adjective has more than one syllable 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>	bigger , biggest
More than one syllable	<i>more</i>	<i>most</i>	more splendid , most splendid

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

	Comparative	Superlative	Examples
good (well is an adverb)	better	best	better shoes , best shoes
bad (badly is an adverb)	worse	worst	worse meal , worst meal
little (amount)	less	least	less famous , least famous
little (size)	littler	littlest	littler than , littlest of all
many (much is an adverb)	more	most	more wonders , most wonders

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

Examples:

Incorrect: She visited Yellowstone National Park, the **most old** national park in the world.

Correct: She visited Yellowstone National Park, the **oldest** national park in the world.

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



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