



COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

Comparatives and Superlatives: Making Comparisons in English

When we want to compare people, places, things, or ideas in English, we use comparative and superlative forms of adjectives. These forms help us express differences and similarities between two or more things.

Comparatives

Comparatives are used to compare two things. We use comparatives to say that one thing is better, worse, bigger, smaller, faster, or slower than another. For example:

- "This coffee is stronger than the one we had yesterday." (comparing two coffees)
- "She speaks English more fluently than her brother." (comparing two people)

Superlatives

Superlatives are used to compare three or more things. We use superlatives to say that one thing is the best, worst, biggest, smallest, fastest, or slowest among others. For example:

- "This is the most beautiful sunset I've ever seen." (comparing multiple sunsets)
- "He's the fastest runner in the team." (comparing multiple runners)

Key Concepts to Remember

- One-syllable adjectives usually add -er (big → bigger) or -est (big → biggest)
- Two-syllable adjectives ending in -y change to -ier (happy → happier) or -iest (happy → happiest)
- Two-syllable adjectives not ending in -y and adjectives with three or more syllables use more (beautiful → more beautiful) or most (beautiful → most beautiful)
- Irregular adjectives (good → better → best; far → farther/further → farthest/furthest)

Common Comparative and Superlative Errors to Avoid

- Using the comparative form instead of the superlative (e.g., "He's the faster runner" instead of "He's the fastest runner")
- Forgetting to use "the" before superlatives (e.g., "This is most beautiful sunset" instead of "This is the most beautiful sunset")

By mastering comparatives and superlatives, you'll be able to express nuanced comparisons and opinions in English.