

Comparatives and Superlatives

When one thing is compared with another, **comparative** adjectives are used:

Rachel is shorter than her sister.

Katie is the taller.

When comparing more than two things, **superlative** adjectives are used:

Rachel is the shortest of her sisters.

Katie is the tallest of the sisters.

- If an adjective only has **one syllable**, the comparative form is made by adding **-er** and the superlative form by adding **-est** to the adjective:

	Comparative	Superlative
high	higher	highest
light	lighter	lightest
big	bigger	biggest

Notice that **big** needs a double **g** in both comparative and superlative forms.

- If an adjective has **more than two syllables**, the comparative is formed by putting **more** in front of the adjective and the superlative is formed by putting **most** in front of the adjective:

	Comparative	Superlative
interesting	more interesting	most interesting
reliable	more reliable	most reliable

- Adjectives with **exactly two** syllables can be formed in either way *find out the rules for two syllable comparatives*
- There are a few adjectives which change completely for the comparative and superlative forms. The most common ones are:

	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
many	more	most
little	less	least

1. Replace the adjective in brackets with the correct **comparative** form:

- I. His writing is (neat) than hers.
- II. Please be (careful) with that sharp knife.
- III. I feel much (happy) since my brother stopped teasing me.
- IV. He couldn't have been (horrible) towards poor old Sarah.
- V. The road was (narrow) than I thought.

2. Replace the adjective in brackets with the correct **superlative** form:

- I. *Charlotte's Web* is the (boring) book I have ever read.
- II. The new Ferrari is the (quick) and (flashy) car in the world.
- III. When the chemicals are mixed together in science, there was the (loud) bang.
- IV. By pouring cement in to my schoolbag, you went just the (tiny) bit too far.
- V. The new actor in the new film is the (gorgeous).

3. Each of the following adjectives has a comparative and superlative form. Complete the table writing in the correct form.

	adjective	comparative	superlative
1	blue	bluer	bluest
2		farther	
3			hottest
4	bad	worse	
5		easier	
6	friendly		
7		funnier	
8			busiest
9		bigger	
10	pretty		

4. Write each sentence using the comparative or superlative form of the following adverbs in parenthesis that best completes the sentence.

- I. The woman arrived (earlier/earliest) than the others to make sure she got a good seat.
- II. The athlete jumped (farther/farthest) than last time.
- III. Fred jumped (higher/highest) than all the other students in the PE lesson.
- IV. I jog (shorter/shortest) distances in the morning.
- V. The work went (better/best) today because all the workers showed up.
- VI. He arrived (sooner/soonest) than the other person.