



*Degrees of comparison of adjectives*



Open your mouth  
only if what you are  
going to say is  
more beautiful  
than the

*silence*

Adjective form	Comparative	Superlative
Only one syllable, ending in E. Examples: <i>wide, fine, cute</i>	Add -R: <i>wider, finer, cuter</i>	Add -ST: <i>widest, finest, cutest</i>
Only one syllable, with one vowel and one consonant at the end. Examples: <i>hot, big, fat</i>	Double the consonant, and add -ER: <i>hotter, bigger, fatter</i>	Double the consonant, and add -EST: <i>hottest, biggest, fattest</i>
Only one syllable, with more than one vowel or more than one consonant at the end. Examples: <i>light, neat, fast</i>	Add -ER: <i>lighter, neater, faster</i>	Add -EST: <i>lightest, neatest, fastest</i>
Two syllables, ending in Y. Examples: <i>happy, silly, lonely</i>	Change Y to I, then add -ER: <i>happier, sillier, lonelier</i>	Change Y to I, then add -EST: <i>happiest, silliest, loneliest</i>
Two syllables or more, not ending in Y. Examples: <i>modern, interesting, beautiful</i>	Use MORE before the adjective: <i>more modern, more interesting, more beautiful</i>	Use MOST before the adjective: <i>most modern, most interesting, most beautiful</i>

## Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adverbs

The comparative and superlative forms of adverbs are formed in the same way as those of adjectives.

- ◆ Adverbs which have the same form as the adjective usually take **-er** in the comparative and **-est** in the superlative.

e.g. *hard - harder - hardest*    *late - later - latest*

- ◆ Adverbs formed by adding **-ly** to the adjective take **more** in the comparative and **most** in the superlative form.

e.g. *comfortably - more comfortably - most comfortably*

## Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives

adjective/adverb	comparative	superlative
good/well	better	best
bad/badly	worse	worst
much/many/ a lot of	more	most
little	less	least
far	further/farther	furthest/farthest

Note:

- further/farther (adv) = longer (in distance)**  
e.g. *Barclays Bank is further/farther away than Lloyds.*  
**further (adj) = more** e.g. *Let's hope there won't be any further delays.* (NOT: ~~... farther delays~~)
- elder/eldest (+noun) (adj) = for members of a family** e.g. *My elder brother is a doctor.*  
**But:** *My brother is older than me.* (NOT: ~~elder than~~)

## I. Choose the correct answer.

1. She made an even *clumsiest* / *clumsyer* / *clumsier* attempt to apologise.
2. Let's see which group is *the most observant* / *more observant*.
3. It is a *more indirect* / *the most indirect* route but the scenery is nicer.
4. There will be a *most formal* / *formaler* / *more formal* announcement later.
5. *The most urgent* / *more urgent* task is to find the missing keys!
6. We all gave our ideas but Mary's was *more original* / *the most original*.
7. Peter's explanation was *the most confusing* / *more confusing* than anyone else's.
8. I'll take *more full* / *fuller* / *the fullest* box, you take one that is less full.
9. His behavior was becoming *more erratic* / *erraticer* / *erratic more*.

## Types of Comparisons

- ◆ **as + adjective + as**  
**not so/as + adjective + as**  
e.g. She is **as tall as** I am.  
It is **not so/as hot as** it was yesterday.
- ◆ **twice/three times, etc./half as + adjective + as**  
e.g. Their car was **twice as expensive as** ours.
- ◆ **the same ... as**  
e.g. Your dress is **the same** colour **as** mine.
- ◆ **less + (adjective) ... than**  
**the least + (adjective) ... of/in**  
e.g. The Park Hotel is **less expensive than** the Plaza.  
The King George is **the least expensive of** all.
- ◆ **the + comparative ..., the + comparative**  
e.g. **The earlier** we set off, **the earlier** we'll arrive.
- ◆ **comparative + and + comparative**  
e.g. The weather is getting **warmer and warmer**.

# Like/As

## Like is used:

- ◆ **for similarities.** e.g. *She swims **like** a fish.*
- ◆ **after feel, look, smell, sound, taste + noun.**  
e.g. *It feels **like** silk.*
- ◆ **with nouns, pronouns or the -ing form to express similarity or contrast.**  
e.g. *There's no place **like** home.*  
*No one can sing **like** him.*

## As is used:

- ◆ **to say what sb or sth really is (jobs or roles).**  
e.g. *She works **as** a tour guide. (She is a tour guide.)*  
*Harrison Ford was great **as** Indiana Jones.*
- ◆ **in certain expressions: as usual, as ... as, as much, such as, the same as.**  
e.g. *He started complaining **as** usual.*
- ◆ **after accept, be known, class, describe, refer to, regard, use.**  
e.g. *He is **known** as the father of modern medicine.*
- ◆ **in clauses of manner to mean 'in the way that'.**  
e.g. *Do **as** I tell you.*

## II. Choose the correct answer.

1) The less you listen, \_\_\_\_\_.

- the less you understand
- you understand the less
- you understand less

2) The more money you earn, \_\_\_\_\_.

- the more rich you are
- you are richer the more
- the richer you are

3) \_\_\_\_\_, the best it is.

- Chocolate the more there is
- The more chocolate there is
- There is most chocolate

4) \_\_\_\_\_, the more I improve my English.

- I do more exercises
- The more I do exercises
- The more exercises I do

5) The more money you spend, \_\_\_\_\_.

- the less you money can spare
- the less money you can spare
- the less you can spare money

6) \_\_\_\_\_, the more tired I am.

- The more I run
- The more run I
- I run the more

7) The more he eats, \_\_\_\_\_.

- the fatter he gets
- he gets the more fat
- the more fat he gets

8) The more cars there are, \_\_\_\_\_.

- the more there is pollution
- the more pollution there is
- there is the more pollution

9) \_\_\_\_\_, the more you improve your English.

- With English speakers you speak the more
- The more you speak with English speakers
- You speak the more with English speakers

10) The more interesting books you will read, \_\_\_\_\_.

- the more you will know things
- you will know the more things
- the more things you will know

### III. Fill in the gaps.

1. Diana was much taller ..... Charles.

- like
- than
- as

2. This one is better ..... that one.

- as
- than
- like

3. London is a long way away but Sydney is .....

- father
- further
- more far

4. Of all the sofas I've seen so far, this one is .....

- the nicest
- most nice
- nicer

5. I'm not short. I'm just ..... tall as Hans.

- like
- as
- than

6. Samantha is just as rich ..... David.

- as
- than
- like

7. No one can paint ..... her.

- as
- than
- like

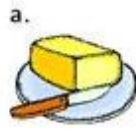
#### IV. Correct the mistakes.

- 1 My best friend is two years elder than me.
- 2 The church is the oldest building of the village.
- 3 She did her homework more careful than usual.
- 4 His flat is big as mine.
- 5 Her new car is quite faster than her old one.
- 6 This cake is quite sweet to eat.
- 7 The green dress is twice cheaper than the black one.
- 8 I feel ill very today.

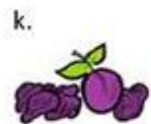
V. Fill in the gaps.

## Food Idioms of Comparison

A. There are several food idioms that use the 'as + adjective + as' structure. Complete the following common idioms with the correct food item. The first one has been done for you.



1. As easy as (l) pie
2. As nutty as \_\_\_\_\_
3. As cool as \_\_\_\_\_
4. As red as \_\_\_\_\_
5. As sweet as \_\_\_\_\_
6. As slow as \_\_\_\_\_
7. As flat as \_\_\_\_\_
8. As American \_\_\_\_\_
9. As soft \_\_\_\_\_
10. As brown \_\_\_\_\_
11. As thick as \_\_\_\_\_
12. As warm as \_\_\_\_\_
13. As wrinkled as \_\_\_\_\_



B. Complete the following with one of the idioms from above.

1. This exercise isn't difficult. It's \_\_\_\_\_
2. We couldn't see through the fog. It was \_\_\_\_\_
3. After being in the water so long the children were \_\_\_\_\_
4. After a few minutes by the fire everyone was \_\_\_\_\_
5. The teacher never gets angry. He is \_\_\_\_\_



## VI. Review on all comparatives and superlatives.

### **REVIEW ON ALL COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES**

- 1.- Oil and water don't mix very easily because water isn't ..... oil.  
**(thick)**
- 2.- Everyone enjoys listening to him. He tells ..... stories you've ever heard. **(amusing)**
- 3.- Health is a question of diet. .... food you eat, ..... you are. **(good/healthy)**
- 4.- Nobody wants to go out with him. He's ..... person I've ever known. **(boring)**
- 5.- You should talk to him ..... possible. .... you wait, ..... **(soon/long/bad)**
- 6.- The exam turned out to be ..... we had thought.  
**(easy)**
- 7.- He's an experienced climber. He's climbed some of .....mountains in the world. **(high)**
- 8.- I don't know what he does. .... he gets, ..... he looks. **(old/young)**
- 9.- If you do ..... exercise, you'll get .....  
**(much/fit)**
- 10.- A - I won't invite ..... people, otherwise there won't be enough room in the dining-room. **(many)**  
B - Yes, but you must take into account that ..... people you invite, ..... presents you will get. **(many/many)**
- 11.- You haven't done this exam ..... you usually do. I think you must study ..... next time.  
**(well/hard)**
- 12.- He never stops. He's ..... person in the office.  
**(hard-working)**
- 13.- Minor roads have ..... traffic but they are ..... and ..... motorways.  
**(little/slow/dangerous)**
- 14.- ..... I think about the problem, ..... it seems to me to solve. **(much/difficult)**
- 15.- Excuse me, can you tell me where ..... post office is?  
**(near)**
- 16.- His new car is ..... and ..... his old one. Obviously, it is ..... It is ..... model in the market.  
**(large/fast/expensive/new)**