

Comparatives and Superlatives Handout

What are Comparatives and Superlatives?

Comparatives and superlatives allow us to compare people, objects, or ideas by showing differences in quality, quantity, or degree.

- **Comparatives:** Used when comparing two items or people (e.g., "This car is faster than that one").
- **Superlatives:** Used when comparing three or more items or people, showing the highest or lowest degree (e.g., "This is the fastest car of all").

Grammar Rules and Examples

1. One-Syllable Adjectives

- **Comparatives:** Add -er to the adjective (e.g., "small" → smaller).
- **Superlatives:** Add -est to the adjective (e.g., "small" → smallest).

Examples:

- This mountain is taller than that hill.
- Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world.

2. Two-Syllable Adjectives Ending in -y

- Change the -y to -i and add -er for comparatives (e.g., "happy" → happier).
- Change the -y to -i and add -est for superlatives (e.g., "happy" → happiest).

Examples:

- She is happier now than she was before.
- This is the happiest day of my life.

3. Adjectives with Two or More Syllables (not ending in -y)

- Use more before the adjective for comparatives (e.g., "expensive" → more expensive).
- Use most before the adjective for superlatives (e.g., "expensive" → most expensive).

Examples:

- That painting is more beautiful than this one.
- This museum has the most interesting exhibits in the city.

4. Irregular Adjectives

- Some adjectives have irregular comparative and superlative forms that don't follow the usual rules.

Examples:

- Good → Better (comparative) → Best (superlative)
 - She is a better student than her brother.
 - He is the best student in the class.
- Bad → Worse (comparative) → Worst (superlative)

- His situation is worse than mine.
- This is the worst movie I've ever seen.

Table of Comparatives and Superlatives

Adjective	Syllables	Comparative	Superlative	Example Sentence
Tall	1	Taller	Tallest	Sarah is taller than Mike.
Fast	1	Faster	Fastest	This is the fastest car I've driven.
Old	1	Older	Oldest	That building is the oldest in town.
Happy	2	Happier	Happiest	She seems happier today than yesterday.
Busy	2	Busier	Busiest	This is the busiest season for shopping.
Expensive	3	More expensive	Most expensive	That car is more expensive than mine.
Interesting	4	More interesting	Most interesting	This story is the most interesting I've read.
Good	1	Better	Best	Her grades are better than last year.
Bad	1	Worse	Worst	Today's weather is the worst we've seen all year.

Examples in Sentences

- Comparative:
 - My dog is faster than my neighbor's dog.
 - This task is easier than the last one we did.
- Superlative:
 - He is the smartest student in his class.
 - That was the most exciting trip of my life!
- Irregular:
 - This problem is worse than the one we solved yesterday.
 - She is the best singer in our school.