

Comparatives and superlatives

COMPARATIVES

	MAJORITY	MINORITY	EQUALITY
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + adj. (1-syll. or 2-syll. -y) + -er (+ than + object) > Our company is larger than our local competitor's. Subj. + verb + more + adj. (≥ 2 syll.) (+ than + object) > This equipment is more modern than the one we had. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + less + adj. (+ than + object) > Our model no. 23 is less cheap than model no. 25. > Dacia cars are less luxurious than Mercedes cars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + as + adj. (+ as + object) > Your report is as extensive as Mark's. Subj. + neg. verb + as/so + adj. (+ as + object) > George's presentation wasn't so/as satisfying as Jenny's.
!!!	Adj. -e → + -r Adj. -consonant + -y → -i + -er Irregular comparatives: <i>good</i> → <i>better</i> , <i>bad</i> → <i>worse</i> , <i>old</i> → <i>older/elder</i> <i>far</i> → <i>farther/further</i>		
Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + more + adv. (+ than + object) > We are now working more efficiently than last month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + less + adv. (+ than + object) > Thankfully, the complaints are coming in less frequently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + as + adv. (+ as + object) > This new piece of machinery works just as slowly.
!!!	If the adverb only has one syllable → + -er		
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + more + count./uncount. noun (+ than + object) > The local factory is producing more pollution than last year. > According to the graphs we have more satisfied customers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + less + uncount. noun (+ than + object) > There is less air traffic in this season. Subj. + verb + fewer + count. noun (+ than + object) > Fewer controls were done on our machines before selling them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + as much + uncount. noun (+ as + object) > We didn't make as much money as we had hoped. Subj. + verb + as many + count. noun (+ as + object) > Lab 1 has as many PCs as lab 2.
Verbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + more (+ than + object) > Our employees work more than two years ago. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + less (+ than + object) > They've produced less this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + as much (+ as + object) > Kimberly-Clark invests as much as our company in data protection.

RELATIVE SUPERLATIVE

	MAJORITY	MINORITY
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + the + adj. (1-syll. or 2-syll. -y) + -est (+ in/of + object) > Fed-Ex is the fastest courier in this area. Subj. + verb + the + most + adj. (≥ 2 syll.) (+ in/of + object) > Nike is considered the most popular of brands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subj. + verb + the + least + adj. (+ in/of + object) > Ikon is one of the least known brands for microwave ovens.
!!!	Adj. -e → + -st Adj. -consonant + -y → -ie + -st Irregular comparatives: <i>good</i> → <i>best</i> , <i>bad</i> → <i>worst</i> , <i>old</i> → <i>oldest/eldest</i> , <i>far</i> → <i>farthest/furthest</i>	

ABSOLUTE SUPERLATIVE

Adjectives	very / really + gradable adjective > Smart grids are very/really advantageous for energy distribution.	absolutely / really + ungradable adjective > Last year's promotional campaign was absolutely/really horrible .
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1 Complete with an appropriate form of comparative.

1. Samsung is (profitable)
LG when it comes to electronic appliances.
Their turnover is much (large).
2. Unfortunately, their technology is not (efficient) their competitors' because
they have (expert) technicians.
3. Semiconductors conduct electricity (good) insulators, but not
..... (well) conductors.
4. Intel produces (microprocessors) Samsung, but they don't produce
..... (electronic devices) them.
5. Not many factories are producing goods (fast) this one. The manager is
running it much (good) they used to.
6. The workmen can't do (work) they did last month: they must be exhausted!
We need some new and (young) ones for this part of the production.

2 Complete with an appropriate form of superlative.

1. Silicon Valley is the place where technological development is (fast)
..... the world.
2. We had (small) number of accidents in workplaces this year, ever, we are doing
things right.
3. (intelligent) choice we could make would be making our house smarter.
4. (expensive) transistor the catalogue is BJT514.
It's just € 0.03.
5. IT companies had (high) number of redundancies after the hiring boom in the
years 2000.
6. Diesel is (expensive) type of fuel and (polluting).

3 Write sentences meaning the opposite of the given ones. Use a different form of comparative/superlative.

1. Mr Patterson is the best qualified technician they have employed.

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2. We spent more time and money on installing new solar panels that we had taken into account.

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3. That candidate spoke English less fluently than French.

.....

4. This is the shortest and least busy route to go to our production plant.

.....

5. Kim's solution is better than Jim's.

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6. Hard skills are not as important as soft skills.

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