

Comparatives & Superlatives

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Target Students: Lower intermediate
Corpus Used: British National Corpus (BNC); Disney Scripts
Class Duration: 120 minutes
Topic: We are all Special!

Materials:

“Animal Comparisons Dialogue” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_8CvwwT-Gg

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, the students will be able to

1. Demonstrate awareness of the forms of comparatives and superlatives;
2. Show awareness of how the number of syllables determines comparative and superlative forms;
3. Show awareness of the various forms of comparatives and superlatives of some 2-syllable words;
4. Write a text to describe classmates, using correct comparatives and superlatives;
5. Show appreciation of individual differences.

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I. Different Animals in the Zoo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_8CvwwT-Gg

Are all animals the same? Watch the video about Lisa and her family's zoo visit. You will hear them comparing the animals. Find out the different characteristics of the animals.



1. _____ swim faster than _____.



2. _____ are much bigger than _____.



3. Elephants are _____ than _____.



4. The _____ is the smallest animal in the zoo.



II. Comparative Form

(a) Read the lines below. How many syllables do the highlighted words have? Complete the table below.

1.	Patients diagnosed survive longer than two years.
2.	Those groups were growing faster in the UK than in the rest of the world.
3.	It is more advantageous to pay by contract than to give cash.
4.	A large reserve allowed us to meet greater than expected demands.
5.	She is older than these antiques.
6.	The recent war in Kuwait is more terrible than those in other parts of the world.
7.	German art historians work more systematically than others.
8.	Filming is more flexible than book production.

1-2 syllables	3 or more syllables
e.g. long	advantageous

(b) Circle the correct answer.

A **comparative** compares two objects.

The form “-er than” is usually used when the adjective or adverb has (*1-2 syllables / 3 or more syllables).

The form “more ... than” is usually used when the adjective or adverb has (*1-2 syllables / 3 or more syllables).

III. Superlative Form

(a) Read the lines below. How many syllables do the highlighted words have? Complete the table below.

1.	Working together with the client is the most effective way of ensuring their needs are met.
2.	It is most important to appoint at least one Executor when you make your Will.
3.	The biggest change is in the length of time ill people are surviving.
4.	The happiest and longest relationships are based on close friendship and shared interests.
5.	That was the most successful advertisement ever which raised 20 million dollars.
6.	The highest praise is given to works which is high above the standard.
7.	This is the most ridiculous piece of legislation I have ever seen in my entire life.
8.	It is the nearest bookstore you can find in town.

1-2 syllables	3 syllables
e.g. big	

(b) Circle the correct answer.

A **superlative** compares three or more objects.

The form “-est” is usually used when the adjective or adverb has (*1-2 syllables / 3 or more syllables)

The form “most ... ” is usually used when the adjective or adverb has (*1-2 syllables / 3 or more syllables).

IV. 2-syllable Words (optional)

Read the lines below and complete the following table.

1.	Leslie was happier than he had been since joining the army.
2.	The happiest relationships are based on close friendship and shared interests.
3.	The wealthier members of any society claim to be more happy than poorer members of that society.
4.	It was the most happy, graciously informal evening, with friends from the Atlantic.
5.	The politest thing to do was follow the example and just listen.
6.	Some of them were politer than others, but they tended to ask the same questions as they trampled through the house.
7.	They were more formal, more polite, and rather more distant than usual, asking permission to do things that usually they would have done without question.
8.	They have the most polite and efficient cabin crew in the business.
9.	I have rarely been angrier than I was that day.
10.	The electric guitar can make the angriest music.
11.	Sister was even more angry than I had anticipated.
12.	This poem is certainly Leapor's most angry description of a father figure.
13.	How come every time I see you, you're even lovelier than I remember.
14.	It turned out to be one of the loveliest journeys I have ever taken.
15.	This made them wish to take me to see something more lovely on the island.
16.	I have the most lovely dreams about all my old friends and the old days.

What are the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives?

	Comparative	Example no.	Superlative	Example no.
<i>happy</i>	e.g. <i>happier</i> <i>more happy</i>	1 3		
<i>polite</i>				
<i>angry</i>				
<i>lovely</i>				

What are the comparatives/superlatives that can be used with '-er'/'-est' as well as with 'more'/'most'? Find five examples at: <https://www.english-corpora.org/bnc/>; <https://lextutor.ca/conc/eng/>

said to him: Are n't you	happier	as a media critic, putting shitty	luminous, which made her look even	more happy	and luminous. Compliments were
way he sometimes has. Do I look	happier	? he said. Yes, I said. More fulfilled		more happy	to acknowledge the contribution
with violence might occur, the	happier	Bramble would be. " Drated nuisance	with Bite It! records, Lavelle is	more happy	days of some two years ago a
is certainly high on my list of	happier	wildlife experiences. Crab apples	While visiting Yugoslavia in those	more happy	member
institution and they make people	happier	." But the villages are dying	at large next year, he will be even	more happy	. And to make sure that the colony
decisions to be made, " Jacki " is	happier	than most players to accept his			
ended the German 's week on a	happier	note with some powerful jumping			

V. Language Practice

Complete each blank with the correct comparative or superlative adjective.

e.g. It took a little longer than I thought. (long)

1. **Black mustard is the one with the best and most pungent flavour, and has become naturalized in Britain ... (good, pungent)**
2. **If possible, buy the biggest and juiciest / most juicy oranges for this dish. (big, juicy)**
3. I'm a lot tougher than some people think. (tough)
4. **It is one of the poorest areas of Cairo. (poor)**
5. I must have hit my head harder than I thought. (hard)
6. Nothing could be drier than a jolly caucus race. (dry)
7. Nothing is more important than our friendship. (important)
8. Oh, Father, I just had the most wonderful time. - I'm so happy.
9. **One of Northern Ireland's newest and most innovative theatre companies has captured the heart ... (new, innovative)**
10. She has the most beautiful voice. (beautiful)
11. She was prettier / more pretty than me. (pretty)
12. That laughter is ten times more powerful. (powerful)
13. **The latest application of the ink-jet principle is that of colour printing ... (late)**
14. There is nothing more toxic or deadly than a human child. (toxic, deadly)
15. Well, a mother, a real mother... is the most wonderful person in the world. (wonderful)
16. Where are we? In a tumble-down old tower... in the most miserable old castle in all Christendom. (miserable)

Note: boldface – from BNC; others from Disney Scripts (for different levels of students)

VI. Writing – My Classmates and I

(a) Each student in our class is unique and special. Jot down some descriptions about yourself in the following table. Then interview two classmates and complete the table.

	Me	1.	2.
Date of birth			
Height (cm)			
Weight (kg)			
Size of hands (cm)			
Size of feet (cm)			
Length of hair			
Speed of running			
Family members at home			
Daily study time (hours)			
Daily TV watching time			
Daily electronic game playing time			
Living district			
Hobbies			
Likes and dislikes			
Interest classes			
Personality			
(Your own ideas)			

(b) Based on the information gathered above, introduce yourself and your friends to your classmates, using comparatives and superlatives. Remember to show respect for your friends and appreciation of individual differences in your description.

Some suggested words:

long	short	big	small	large
fast	slow	young	old	hardworking
busy	outgoing	sporty	athletic	important
far				



My Classmates and I

Most _____ of all, we are all unique and special. _____

_____ I love my classmates!