

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

Focus

Comparatives and superlatives

Aim

To learn and practice comparative and superlative adjectives and sentence structure.

Preparation

Make one copy of the four-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

50 minutes

Introduction

This comparatives and superlatives worksheet helps students to learn and practice comparative and superlative adjectives and sentence structure.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the four-page worksheet.

Students begin by reading information about how comparative and superlative adjectives are formed. The students then test their knowledge of irregular comparative and superlative adjectives.

Exercise A - Answer key

good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	further / farther	furthest / farthest

Students then write comparative and superlative forms of adjectives using the information about how they are formed.

Exercise B - Answer key

pretty	prettier	prettiest
easy	easier	easiest
big	bigger	biggest
light	lighter	lightest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
fast	faster	fastest
reliable	more reliable	most reliable
slow	slower	slowest
new	newer	newest
dry	drier	driest
happy	happier	happiest
old	older	oldest
nice	nicer	nicest
compact	more compact	most compact
tasty	tastier	tastiest
bitter	more bitter	most bitter
advanced	more advanced	most advanced
suitable	more suitable	most suitable
warm	warmer	warmest

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Procedure continued

Next, students complete questions and answers with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets and their own answers.

Exercise C - Answer key

- Q: What is **the most interesting** place you've ever been to?
- Q: What is **the tallest** building you've ever been in?
- Q: Which is **larger**, the Sahara desert or the Gobi desert?
A: The **Sahara desert** is **larger**.
- Q: Who is **more famous**, Lady Gaga or Beyoncé?
- Q: Which country has a **larger** population, China or India?
A: **China** has **a larger population**.
- Q: Which fruit has a **stronger** smell, bananas or durians?
A: **Durians** have **a stronger smell**.
- Q: What is **the best** thing to do in your town or city?
- Q: Which is **higher**, Mount Everest or K2?
A: **Mount Everest** is **higher**.
- Q: Who is **the cleverest** student in the class?
- Q: What is **the most dangerous** thing you've ever done?

Students then go on to create one comparative and one superlative conversation question of their own and answer them.

When the students have finished, they ask and answer the questions from the last two exercises with a partner.

In the last exercise, students say which things they prefer from two choices, explaining their answers using comparatives.

Afterwards, review the students' answers as a class and provide feedback.

Comparatives and Superlatives Practice

Adjectives are used to describe nouns. If two nouns are being compared to one another, we use comparative adjectives. When comparing three or more nouns, we use superlative adjectives.

Adjective form	Comparative form	Superlative form
One syllable adjectives, ending in E . Examples: wide, fine, cute	Add -r : wider, finer, cuter	Add -st : widest, finest, cutest
One syllable adjectives with one vowel and one consonant at the end. Examples: hot, big, fat	Double the consonant, and add -er : hotter, bigger, fatter	Double the consonant, and add -est : hottest, biggest, fattest
One syllable adjectives with more than one vowel or more than one consonant at the end. Examples: light, neat, fast	Add -er : lighter, neater, faster	Add -est : lightest, neatest, fastest
Two syllable adjectives, ending in Y . Examples: happy, silly, lonely	Change y to i , then add -er : happier, sillier, lonelier	Change y to i , then add -est : happiest, silliest, loneliest
Adjectives with two syllables or more, not ending in Y . Examples: modern, interesting, beautiful	Use more before the adjective: more modern, more interesting, more beautiful	Use most before the adjective: most modern, most interesting, most beautiful

A. The following adjectives are irregular and don't follow the rules above. Do you know their comparative and superlative forms? If so, write them next to the adjectives.

good

bad

little

much

far

B. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives in the table.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
cheap	<i>cheaper</i>	<i>cheapest</i>
beautiful	<i>more beautiful</i>	<i>most beautiful</i>
pretty		
easy		
big		
light		
heavy		
fast		
reliable		
slow		
new		
dry		
happy		
old		
nice		
compact		
tasty		
bitter		
advanced		
suitable		
warm		

C. Complete the questions and answers with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets and your own answers.

1. Q: What is (interesting) place you've ever been to?
A: I've ever been to is
2. Q: What is (tall) building you've ever been in?
A: I've ever been in is
3. Q: Which is (large), the Sahara desert or the Gobi desert?
A: The is
4. Q: Who is (famous), Lady Gaga or Beyoncé?
A: is
5. Q: Which country has a (large) population, China or India?
A: has
6. Q: Which fruit has a (strong) smell, bananas or durians?
A: have
7. Q: What is (good) thing to do in your town or city?
A: The is
8. Q: Which is (high), Mount Everest or K2?
A: is
9. Q: Who is (clever) student in the class?
A: is
10. Q: What is (dangerous) thing you've ever done?
A: is



D. Create two conversation questions of your own and answer them. One question should use a comparative adjective and one should use a superlative adjective.

11. Q:
A:
12. Q:
A:

E. Now, ask and answer questions 1 to 12 with a partner.

F. Which do you prefer? Explain your answers using comparatives.

Which house would you choose to live in and why?



A.

\$300,000



B.

\$75,000

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.....

.....

Which car is better and why?



A.

\$50,000



B.

\$15,000

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.....

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Which watch would you like to have and why?



A.

\$400



B.

\$75

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