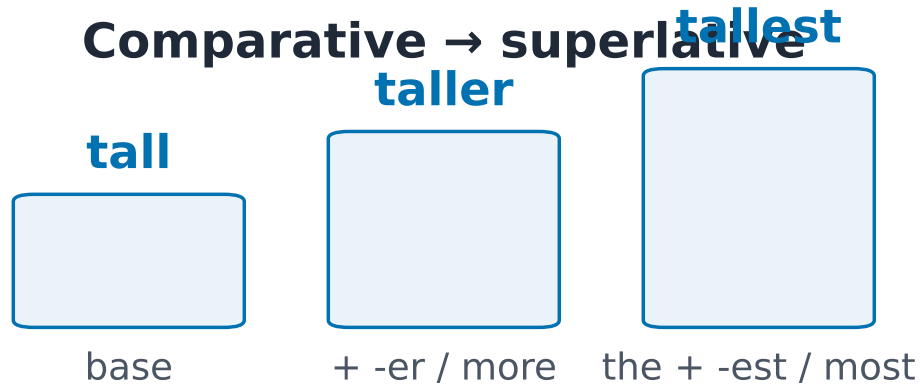


Comparatives and superlatives

English Grammar · A2

Comparatives



Comparative and superlative as growing bars

Comparatives are used to compare **two things**, often used with **than** (compared to).

Short adjectives + -er; long adjectives use more + adjective.

My bag is bigger than yours.

My bag is bigger than yours.

This book is more interesting than that one.

This book is more interesting than that one.

Formation Rules:

- Monosyllabic: add -er → tall → taller, fast → faster.
- Ending in consonant + y: change y to i and add -er → happy → happier, easy → easier.
- Two or more syllables: use more → expensive → more expensive.
- Irregular: good → **better**, bad → **worse**, far → **further**.

Note: Avoid “double comparison”: ~~more bigger~~ × → bigger ✓.

Superlatives

Superlatives indicate “**the most ...**” (three or more), preceded by **the**.

Short adjectives + -est; long adjectives use the most + adjective.

He is the tallest in the class.

He is the tallest in the class.

This is the most expensive phone.

This is the most expensive phone.

Formation Rules:

- Monosyllabic: the + -est → fast → the fastest.
- Long adjectives: the most → the most beautiful.
- Irregular: good → **the best**, bad → **the worst**.

Note: Do not forget **the** before superlatives: ~~he is tallest~~ → he is **the** tallest.

as ... as

as + adjective + as means “as ... as ...”.

She is as tall as her mother.

She is as tall as her mother.

Negative **not as ... as** means “not as ... as ...”:

Today is not as hot as yesterday.

It is not as hot today as yesterday.

Note: Place the **base form of the adjective** (not the comparative) in the middle:
~~as taller as~~ × → as tall as ✓.

Common Errors

- × ~~It is more cheap.~~ → ✓ It is **cheaper**. — Use -er for monosyllabic adjectives, not more.
- × ~~He is taller than me a lot.~~ → ✓ He is **much taller** than me. — “A lot” translates to much, which goes **before** the comparative.
- × ~~My bag is bigger than your.~~ → ✓ ...bigger than **yours**. — Use yours / mine / hers (nominal possessive pronouns) after than.
- × ~~Beijing is bigger than any city in China.~~ → ✓ ...than any **other** city in China. — Do not forget other, otherwise it implies comparing itself to itself.