

Comparative 1 (**cheaper, more expensive** etc.)

A Look at these examples:

How shall we travel? Shall we drive or go by train?

Let's drive. It's **cheaper**.Don't go by train. It's **more expensive**.**Cheaper** and **more expensive** are *comparative* forms.After comparatives you can use **than** (see Unit 107):

- ☐ It's **cheaper** to drive **than** go by train.
- ☐ Going by train is **more expensive than** driving.

B The comparative form is **-er** or **more** ...We use **-er** for short words (one syllable):

cheap → cheaper **fast** → faster
large → larger **thin** → thinner

We also use **-er** for two-syllable words that end in **-y** (**-y** → **-ier**):

lucky → luckier **early** → earlier
easy → easier **pretty** → prettier

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

We use **more** ... for longer words (two syllables or more):

more serious **more expensive**
more often **more comfortable**

We also use **more** ... for adverbs that end in **-ly**:

more slowly **more seriously**
more easily **more quietly**

Compare these examples:

- ☐ You're **older** than me.
- ☐ The exam was quite easy – **easier** than I expected.
- ☐ Can you walk a bit **faster**?
- ☐ I'd like to have a **bigger** car.
- ☐ Last night I went to bed **earlier** than usual.

- ☐ You're **more patient** than me.
- ☐ The exam was quite difficult – **more difficult** than I expected.
- ☐ Can you walk a bit **more slowly**?
- ☐ I'd like to have a **more reliable** car.
- ☐ I don't play tennis much these days. I used to play **more often**.

We use both **-er** or **more** ... with some two-syllable adjectives, especially:**clever** **narrow** **quiet** **shallow** **simple**

- ☐ It's too noisy here. Can we go somewhere **quieter**? or ... somewhere **more quiet**?

C A few adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative forms:

good/well → **better**

- ☐ The garden looks **better** since you tidied it up.
- ☐ I know him well – probably **better** than anybody else knows him.

bad/badly → **worse**

- ☐ 'How's your headache? Better?' 'No, it's **worse**.'
- ☐ He did very badly in the exam – **worse** than expected.

far → **further** (or **farther**)

- ☐ It's a long walk from here to the park – **further** than I thought. (or **farther** than)

Note that **further** (but not **farther**) also means 'more' or 'additional':

- ☐ Let me know if you hear any **further** news. (= any more news)

105.1 Complete the sentences using a comparative form (older / more important etc.).

- This restaurant is very expensive. Let's go somewhere cheaper.
- This coffee is very weak. I like it
- The town was surprisingly big. I expected it to be
- The hotel was surprisingly cheap. I expected it to be
- The weather is too cold here. I'd like to live somewhere
- Sometimes my job is a bit boring. I'd like to do something
- It's a shame you live so far away. I wish you lived
- It was quite easy to find a place to live. I thought it would be
- Your work isn't very good. I'm sure you can do
- Don't worry. The situation isn't so bad. It could be
- You hardly ever call me. Why don't you call me?
- You're too near the camera. Can you move a bit away?

105.2 Complete the sentences. Use the comparative forms of the words in the box. Use **than** where necessary.

big ~~early~~ high important interested peaceful ~~reliable~~ serious slowly thin

- I was feeling tired last night, so I went to bed earlier than usual.
- I'd like to have a more reliable car. The one I have keeps breaking down.
- Unfortunately the problem was we thought at first.
- You look Have you lost weight?
- We don't have enough space here. We need a apartment.
- James doesn't study very hard. He's in having a good time.
- Health and happiness are money.
- I like living in the country. It's living in a town.
- I'm sorry I don't understand. Can you speak, please?
- In some parts of the country, prices are in others.

105.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

than more worse quietly ~~longer~~ better careful frequent

- Getting a visa was complicated. It took longer than I expected.
- Sorry about my mistake. I'll try and be more in future.
- Your English has improved. It's than it was.
- You can travel by bus or by train. The buses are more than the trains.
- You can't always have things immediately. You have to be patient.
- I'm a pessimist. I always think things are going to get
- We were busier usual in the office today. It's not usually so busy.
- You're talking very loudly. Can you speak more?

105.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use a comparative form (-er or more ...).

- Yesterday the temperature was six degrees. Today it's only three degrees.
It's colder today than it was yesterday.
- Dan and I went for a run. I ran ten kilometres. Dan stopped after eight kilometres.
I ran Dan.
- The journey takes four hours by car and five hours by train.
The journey takes train car.
- I expected my friends to arrive at about 4 o'clock. In fact they arrived at 2.30.
My friends I expected.
- There is always a lot of traffic here, but today the traffic is really bad.
The traffic today usual.

A

Look at these examples:

What is **the longest** river in the world?

What was **the most enjoyable** holiday you've ever had?

Longest and **most enjoyable** are *superlative* forms.

The superlative form is **-est** or **most** ... In general, we use **-est** for short words and **most** ... for longer words.

long → longest	hot → hottest	easy → easiest	hard → hardest
but most famous	most boring	most enjoyable	most difficult

A few superlative forms are irregular:

good → best	bad → worst	far → furthest or farthest
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The rules are the same as those for the comparative – see Unit 105.

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

B

We normally use **the** (or **my/your** etc.) with a superlative:

- ☐ Yesterday was **the hottest** day of the year.
- ☐ The Louvre in Paris is one of **the most famous** museums in the world.
- ☐ She is really nice – one of **the nicest** people I know.
- ☐ What's **the best** movie you've ever seen, and what's **the worst**?
- ☐ How old is **your youngest** child?

Compare the superlative and the comparative:

- ☐ This hotel is **the cheapest** in town. (*superlative*)
It's **cheaper** than all the others in town. (*comparative*)
- ☐ He's **the most patient** person I've ever met.
He's much **more patient** than I am.

C

oldest and **eldest**

The superlative of **old** is **oldest**:

- ☐ That church is **the oldest** building in the town. (*not* the eldest)

We use **eldest** only when we talk about people in a family (you can also use **oldest**):

- ☐ **Their eldest son** is 13 years old. (*or* Their **oldest son**)
- ☐ Are you **the eldest** in your family? (*or* the **oldest**)

D

After superlatives we normally use **in** with places:

- ☐ What's the longest river **in the world**? (*not* of the world)
- ☐ We had a nice room. It was one of the best **in the hotel**. (*not* of the hotel)

We also use **in** for organisations and groups of people (a class / a company etc.):

- ☐ Who is the youngest student **in the class**? (*not* of the class)

For a period of time (**day, year** etc.), we normally use **of**:

- ☐ Yesterday was the hottest day **of the year**.
- ☐ What was the happiest day **of your life**?

E

We often use the *present perfect* (I **have done**) after a superlative (see also Unit 8A):

- ☐ What's **the most important** decision **you've ever made**?
- ☐ That was **the best** holiday **I've had** for a long time.

108.1 Complete the sentences. Use the superlative forms (-est or most ...) of the words in the box.

bad cheap good honest popular short tall

- We didn't have much money, so we stayed at the cheapest hotel in the town.
- This building is 250 metres high, but it's not in the city.
- It was an awful day. It was day of my life.
- What is sport in your country?
- I like the morning. For me it's part of the day.
- Sarah always tells the truth. She's one of people I know.
- A straight line is distance between two points.

108.2 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) or a comparative (-er or more ...).

- We stayed at the cheapest hotel in the town. (cheap)
- Our hotel was cheaper than all the others in the town. (cheap)
- I wasn't feeling well yesterday, but I feel a bit today. (good)
- What's thing you've ever bought? (expensive)
- I prefer this chair to the other one. It's (comfortable)
- Amy and Ben have three daughters. is 14 years old. (old)
- Who is the person you know? (old)
- What's way to get to the station? (quick)
- Which is - the bus or the train? (quick)
- I can remember when I was three years old. It's memory. (early)
- Everest is mountain in the world. It is than any other mountain. (high)
- A: This knife isn't very sharp. Do you have a one?
B: No, it's one I have. (sharp)

108.3 Complete the sentences. Use a superlative (-est or most ...) + a preposition (of or in).

- It's a very good room. It's the best room in the hotel.
- Brazil is a very large country. It's South America.
- It was a very happy day. It was my life.
- This is a very valuable painting. It's the museum.
- Spring is a very busy time for me. It's the year.

In the following sentences use **one of** + a superlative + a preposition.

- It's a very good room. It's one of the best rooms in the hotel.
- He's a very rich man. He's one the country.
- She's a very good student. She's the class.
- It was a very bad experience. It was my life.
- It's a very famous university. It's the world.

108.4 What do you say in these situations? Use a superlative + ever.

- You've just been to the cinema. The movie was extremely boring. You tell your friend:
(boring / movie / ever / see) That's the most boring movie I've ever seen.
- Someone has just told you a joke which you think is very funny. You say:
(funny / joke / ever / hear) That's
- You're drinking coffee with a friend. It's really good coffee. You say:
(good / coffee / ever / taste) This
- You have just run ten kilometres. You've never run further than this. You say:
(far / ever / run) That
- You gave up your job. Now you think this was a very bad mistake. You say:
(bad / mistake / ever / make) It
- Your friend meets a lot of people, some of them famous. You ask your friend:
(famous / person / ever / meet?) Who?