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Adjectives

An **adjective** is a describing word. It tells you more about a noun. An adjective usually appears before the noun it describes. Sometimes, though, the adjective appears after the noun, later in the sentence.



a **smart** dog



an **old** building



a **tall** basketball player

a **busy** street

a **dark** corner

a **deep** sea

a **large** bed

It is **windy**.

John's handwriting is very **neat**.

The sea is **rough**.

All the players are very **tall**.

The baby's hands are very **small**.

Sue's drawing is **beautiful**.

That problem is too **difficult**.

Peter is very **quiet** today.



a **low** fence

Exercise 1

Underline the *adjectives* in the following sentences.

- 1 There is an empty room upstairs.
- 2 It's a hot summer.
- 3 You are so kind.
- 4 Don't be crazy.
- 5 This park is clean and green.
- 6 Many people exercise to keep healthy.
- 7 I think these eggs are rotten.
- 8 We are all bored. There isn't anything to do.
- 9 The pupils don't find the joke amusing.
- 10 James was absent because he was ill.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with suitable *adjectives* from the box.

hot	large	short	free
high	sweet	poor	playful

- 1 The ice cream is very _____.
- 2 It's very _____ in summer.
- 3 The company is giving away _____ gifts to its customers.
- 4 They live in a _____ house.
- 5 Jean is wearing a _____ skirt.
- 6 The climbers are climbing up a _____ mountain.
- 7 These puppies are very _____.
- 8 Many _____ people have no home.

Adjective Endings

Adjectives have different **endings**.

Some adjectives end in **-ful** or **-less**.

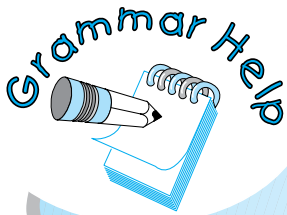


homeless people



playful puppies

a **beautiful** dress
a **careless** driver
a **faithful** dog
a **harmless** insect
a **useful** tool



An adjective that ends in **-less** is the opposite of the same adjective that ends in **-ful**.

For example:

careful – careless

useful – useless

colorful – colorless

harmful – harmless

The **-ful** ending means **having a lot of something**.

For example:

painful = having a lot of pain

hopeful = having a lot of hope

The **-less** ending means **without**.

For example:

leafless = without leaves

sleeveless = without sleeves



Some adjectives end in **-y**.

a **dirty** street
a **noisy** room
an **oily** pot
a **sleepy** passenger
a **sunny** day



a **stormy** sea



a **muddy** path

Some adjectives end in **-ive**.

an **active** child
an **attractive** hat
a **creative** toy

an **expensive** necklace



talkative pupils

Some adjectives end in **-ing**.

a **caring** nurse
an **interesting** book
loving parents
matching clothes
a **smiling** face

a **cunning** fox



dazzling sunshine

Some adjectives end in **-ly**.

a **costly** diamond ring
an **elderly** woman
lively kittens
a **lonely** boy
a **lovely** girl
a **weekly** magazine

a **daily** newspaper



a **friendly** police officer



Many **adverbs** also end in **-ly**.

Here are some adjectives with the endings **-able**, **-al**, **-en**, **-ible**, **-ish** and **-ous**.

a **broken** chair



a **famous** pop singer



childish behavior
a **comfortable** chair
a **dangerous** place
a **foolish** act
a **horrible** smell
a **loveable** koala

a **national** costume
a **musical** instrument
a **terrible** mess
a **woolen** sweater
a **wooden** table



a **poisonous** snake

Exercise 1

Add the correct endings to turn these words into *adjectives*.

-y

-ful

-less

-al

1 peace _____

6 dirt _____

2 storm _____

7 music _____

3 mud _____

8 nation _____

4 forget _____

9 dust _____

5 spot _____

10 play _____

Exercise 2

Add the correct endings to turn these words into *adjectives*.

-en

-y

-ing

-ish

-ous

-ly

1 wind _____

6 fool _____

2 gold _____

7 charm _____

3 friend _____

8 child _____

4 rot _____

9 love _____

5 danger _____

10 interest _____

Kinds of Adjectives

There are different kinds of adjectives.

Some adjectives describe the **qualities** of nouns.



a **cold** drink



a **hot** bun



an **ugly** monster



a **fierce** dog



a **loud** crash

a **beautiful** rainbow

a **clever** monkey

a **difficult** question

happy children

a **kind** lady

a **new** car

an **old** house

a **pretty** girl

a **rich** family

a **sad** story

a **strong** man

a **wicked** queen

Some adjectives tell you which place or country a person or thing comes from, or belongs to. They are called **adjectives of origin**.



Chinese kungfu



an **Indian** temple



A **Filipino** shirt



a **Mexican** hat



Dutch clogs

Australian apples
a **Balinese** dancer
the **English** language
the **French** flag
an **Italian** car
a **Japanese** garden
a **Scottish** kilt
Thai boxing

Some adjectives tell you the **color** of things.



Please get me some **white** paint.



The sky is **gray**.

The sea is **blue**.
George is wearing **brown** shoes.
I don't like **green** apples.
Carrots are **orange**.
Flamingos are **pink**.
Eggplants are **purple**.
Roses are **red**.



Your hands are **black**!

Some adjectives tell you the **size** of the nouns they describe.

a **huge** balloon



a **fat** sumo wrestler



a **thin** boy



a **big** hat
a **broad** shoulders
a **high** mountain
a **large** ship
a **long** bridge
a **low** ceiling
a **narrow** path
small animals
tiny insects
a **wide** street

a **short** man



The word **tall** describes people and narrow, upright objects. For example, you can say:

a **tall** girl a **tall** bookcase

The word **high** describes bigger or wider objects that reach a great height. For example, you can say:

a **high** mountain a **high** wall

Numbers are adjectives, too. They tell you how many people, animals, or things there are. Sometimes they are called **adjectives of quantity**.



one giant



two princes



three princesses



four mermaids



five witches



six fairies



seven elves



nine dwarfs

eight puppets



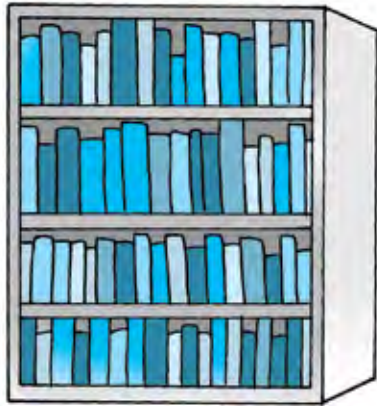
ten angels

eleven hens
twelve geese
thirteen birds
fourteen mice

fifteen frogs
sixteen snails
seventeen kittens
eighteen ants

nineteen lizards
twenty butterflies

Other adjectives tell you something about quantity without giving you the exact number.



a lot of books



some soldiers

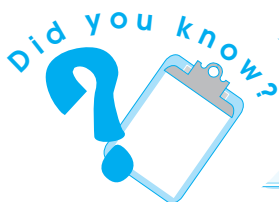


a few cups



a few puppies

a little ice cream
a little rice
not **many** people
too **much** salt
lots of insects
plenty of money
some food
Is there **any** milk?



Adjectives that tell you about **quantity** are also called **quantifying determiners**.

Exercise

Look at the underlined words in the following sentences. Do you know what kinds of adjectives they are?

In the blanks write *C* if the underlined words tell you about *color*, *S* if they tell you about *size*, *Ql* if they tell you about *quality*, *O* if they tell you about *origin*, or *Qn* if they tell you about the *number* or *quantity* of things.

- 1 Dad has two pairs of shoes. _____
- 2 One pair is brown and the other pair is black. _____
- 3 This is a very simple puzzle. _____
- 4 What color is the American flag? _____
- 5 A kind fairy appeared before Cinderella. _____
- 6 He is a proud man. _____
- 7 There is some food left. _____
- 8 Tom is wearing a blue T-shirt. _____
- 9 Jack has ten marbles; Peter has twenty. _____
- 10 How many marbles have Jack and Peter altogether? _____
- 11 There is an Indian temple in the city. _____
- 12 There is a large crowd outside the temple. _____
- 13 My house is just a few miles from the school. _____
- 14 They are driving a small car. _____
- 15 Sue likes those yellow and red balloons. _____

Comparison of Adjectives

When you compare two people or things, use the **comparative** form of the adjective.

Lots of comparative adjectives end in **-er**.



small



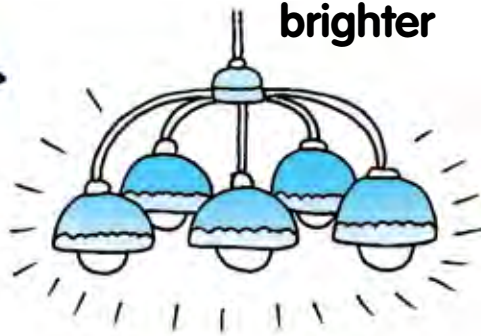
smaller

fast

faster



bright



brighter

cheap

cheaper

clear

clearer

loud

louder

new

newer

old

older

rich

richer

short

shorter

tall

taller

slow

slower

thick

thicker



The word **than** is often used with comparative adjectives. For example, you might say:

Jack is taller **than** John.

A sports car is faster **than** a motorbike.

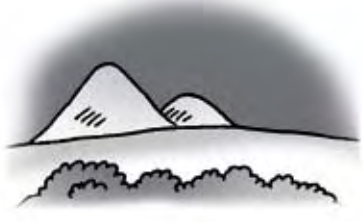
Use the **superlative** form of an adjective to compare three or more nouns. Lots of superlatives end in **-est**.



dark



darker



darkest



thick



thicker



thickest

clean	cleaner	cleanest
easy	easier	easiest
fat	fatter	fattest
flat	flatter	flattest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
hot	hotter	hottest
narrow	narrower	narrowest
noisy	noisier	noisiest
simple	simpler	simplest
thin	thinner	thinnest
wet	wetter	wettest



long



longer



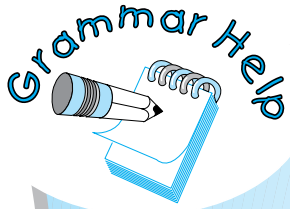
longest



You often add **the** before the superlative form. For example, you say:

Mount Everest is **the** highest mountain in the world.

Peter is **the** tallest boy in his class.



- ▶ With adjectives that end in **-e**, add **-r** to form the **comparative**, and **-st** to form the **superlative**. For example:

	Comparative	Superlative
close	closer	closest
large	larger	largest
safe	safer	safest
wide	wider	widest

- ▶ Some adjectives have only one syllable, end with a consonant, and have a single vowel before the consonant. With these adjectives, double the last letter before adding **-er** to form the **comparative**, and **-est** to form the **superlative**. For example:

	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
dim	dimmer	dimmest
mad	madder	maddest
sad	sadder	saddest

- ▶ Some adjectives have two syllables and end in **-y**. With these adjectives change the **y** to **i**. Then add **-er** to form the **comparative**, and **-est** to form the **superlative**. For example:

	Comparative	Superlative
busy	busier	busiest
dirty	dirtier	dirtiest
happy	happier	happiest
pretty	prettier	prettiest

With some adjectives, you use **more** to make the comparative form, and **most** to make the superlative form.



beautiful



more beautiful



most beautiful

active

more active

most active

charming

more charming

most charming

cheerful

more cheerful

most cheerful

comfortable

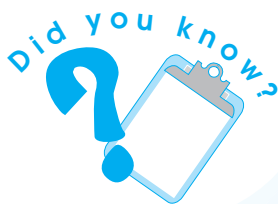
more comfortable

most comfortable

delicious

more delicious

most delicious



Adjectives that form their comparative and superlative with **more** and **most** are usually adjectives with two or more **syllables**, or sounds. For example:

ac-tive

ex-pen-sive

beau-ti-ful

fa-mous

charm-ing

for-tu-nate

cheer-ful

in-tel-li-gent

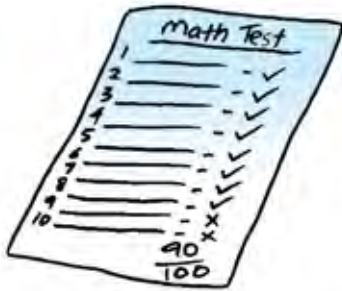
com-fort-a-ble

pow-er-ful

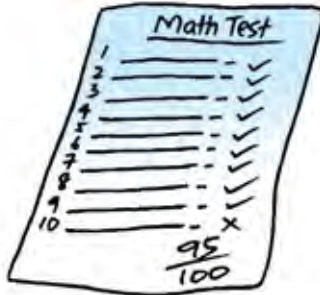
de-li-cious

val-u-a-ble

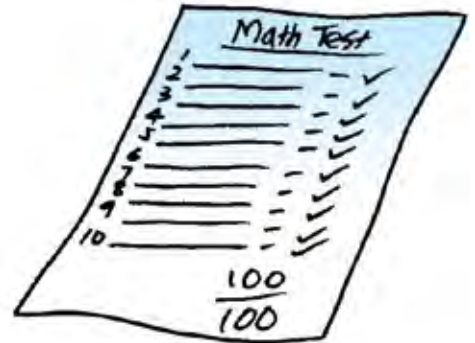
The comparative and superlative forms of some adjectives are completely different words.



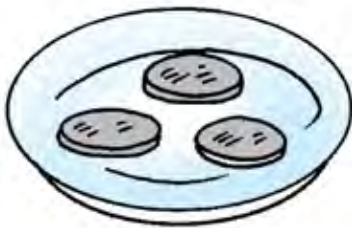
good



better



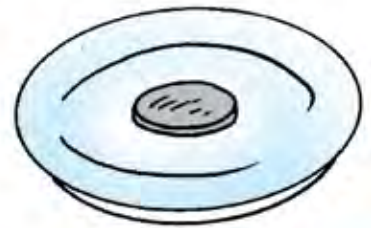
best



little



less



least

bad	worse	worst
few	less	least
many	more	most
much	more	most



With these adjectives, you don't add **-er** or **more** to form the comparative, or **-est** or **most** to form the superlative.

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct *comparative* and *superlative* forms of the following *adjectives*.

	Comparative	Superlative
hard	_____	_____
cold	_____	_____
soft	_____	_____
tall	_____	_____
rich	_____	_____
mad	_____	_____
funny	_____	_____
big	_____	_____
sad	_____	_____
busy	_____	_____
noisy	_____	_____

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct *comparative* and *superlative* forms of the following *adjectives*.

	Comparative	Superlative
foolish	_____	_____
harmful	_____	_____
poisonous	_____	_____
valuable	_____	_____
difficult	_____	_____
generous	_____	_____