

# Comparative and superlative adverbs

Adverbs have comparative forms to compare or show differences. They also have superlative forms to talk about extremes.

See also:

Adjectives **92** Comparative adjectives **94**  
Superlative adjectives **97** Adverbs of manner **98**

## 99.1 REGULAR COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

Most **comparative** adverbs are formed using "more" or "less."

COMPARATIVE

Karen eats **more quickly** than Tim.

Tim eats **less quickly** than Sarah.



Most **superlative** adverbs are formed using "most" or "least."

SUPERLATIVE

Carmen cooks the **most frequently**.

Bob cooks the **least frequently**.



## 99.2 IRREGULAR COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

"Well" and "badly" have the same comparative and superlative forms as their corresponding adjectives, "good" and "bad." They are both irregular.

ADJECTIVE

ADVERB

COMPARATIVE

SUPERLATIVE

good



well



better



best

bad



badly



worse



worst

### 99.3 SHORT COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

For some shorter adverbs, the comparative or superlative adjective is sometimes used as the comparative or superlative adverb.



COMPARATIVE

My dog moves **slower** / **more slowly** than my cat.

Both are correct.

SUPERLATIVE

My tortoise moves the **slowest** / **most slowly**.

Both are correct.

#### FURTHER EXAMPLES

My sister always runs **faster** than me.



My sister can run fast, but our brother runs **the fastest**.



I got to work **earlier** than everyone else today.



I always arrive **the earliest** when I cycle, as I beat the traffic.



I'm training **harder** than my friend for the judo competition.



This is **the hardest** I've ever trained for a competition.



### 99.4 COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADVERBS

Adverbs that have the same form as an adjective can only become comparative and superlative adverbs by adding "-er" and "-est."

COMPARATIVE

My colleague always works **later** than me.

SUPERLATIVE

My boss always stays **the latest**.

