



1st semester

Topic 32:

Comparative and superlative structures



SOME RULES ABOUT FORMING COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES



ONE SYLLABLE

- They form the comparative by adding **-er** and the superlative by adding **-est**, e.g.:

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Soft	Softer	The softest
Cheap	Cheaper	The cheapest
Sweet	Sweeter	The sweetest
Thin	Thinner	The thinnest





SPELLING RULES



- **ONE SYLLABLE**

Adjective ending in a single vowel + a single consonant letter, the consonant letter is doubled.

e.g.: thin → thinner, big → biggest.

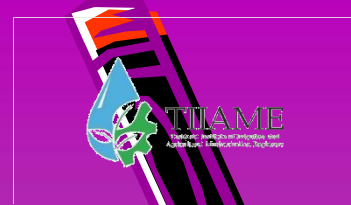
- If an adjective ends in **-e**, this is removed when adding **-er/-est**.

e.g.: wide → wider/widest.

- If an adjective ends in a consonant + **-y= -i** when adding **-er/-est**, e.g.: dry → drier/driest.

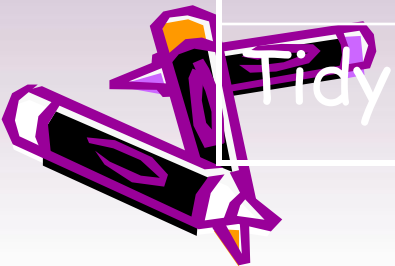


TWO SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES



- Those ending in **-y** usually form the comparative by adding **-er** and the superlative by adding **-est**,

Adjective	Comparative	superlative
Lucky	luckier	The luckiest
Pretty	Prettier	The prettiest
Tidy	Tidier	The tidiest



TWO SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

- Two syllable adjectives **not** ending in **-y** always form the comparative with **more** and **the most**.

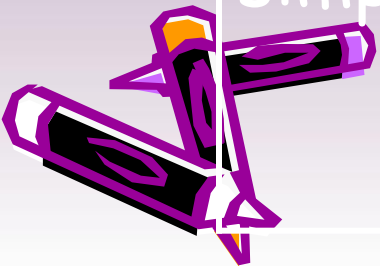
Adjective	Comparative	superlative
Worried	More worried	The most worried
Boring	More boring	The most boring
Careful	More careful	The most careful
Useless	More useless	The most useless



TWO SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

- These ones can form the comparative and superlative **in two ways**

Stupid er More stupid	clever er More clever er	Common est The most common
friendly	gentle	narrow
pleasant	polite	quiet
simple	Simpl er The more simple	Simpl est The most simple





THREE SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS



- Adjectives which have three or more syllables always form the comparative and superlative with **MORE** and **THE MOST**, e.g.:

Difficult	More difficult	The most difficult
Dangerous	More dangerous	The most dangerous
Quickly	More quickly	The most quickly

- Exception:

ADVERBS: Hard, late, long, soon.

Harder/the hardest





IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES



Little	Less	The least
Good/well	Better	The best
Bad /badly	Worse	The worst
Far	Farther/further	The farthest/furthest





OTHER USES OF COMPARATIVES



Comparatives are often qualified by using words and phrases such as:

- much,(quite) a lot, far, significantly
(**Big differences**)
- a bit/little, slightly (**Small differences**)

You should go by train, it would be **much cheaper**.

Could you be **a bit quieter**?

I'm feeling **a lot better**.

Do you have one that's **slightly bigger**?





OTHER USES OF COMPARATIVES



- Two comparatives can be contrasted by placing **the** before them, indicating that a change in one quality is linked to a change in another, e.g.:

The smaller the gift, **the easier** it is to send.

The more you smoke, **the worse** it is for your health.

- Two comparatives can also be linked with **and** to show a continuing increase in a particular quality, e.g.:
 - The sea was getting **rougher and rougher**.
 - Her illness was becoming **worse and worse**.
 - He became **more and more** tired as the weeks went by



USE OF SUPERLATIVES

- Like comparatives, superlatives can be placed **before nouns** in the attributive position, or occur after be and other link verbs, e.g.:
 - **The most delicious** cake I've ever eaten
 - Annabel was **the youngest**(of the children)
 - This restaurant is **the best**(in town)





LESS and The LEAST



Less (the opposite of comparative more), and the **least** (the opposite of superlative the most).

- I've always been less patient than my sister.
- This sofa is less comfortable.

FEWER/FEWEST with plural countable nouns.

- She is on a diet so she is eating less chocolate and fewer sweets these days.





AS...AS

AS/(not)SO+Adj/Adverb/AS.

He is **as** intelligent **as** his sister

He is **NOT SO** intelligent **as** his sister

As much/many+ Noun

My mum earns **as much money** as you

She reads **as many books** as you

The same+noun+as

She is **the same** age **AS** you.

*He is **NOT QUITE** so clever as you (small difference)

+He is **NOT NEARLY** so clever as you. (big dif.)

