Comparatives and Superlatives Practice

Introduction

This comparatives and superlatives worksheet helps students to learn and practice comparative and superlative adjectives and sentence structure.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the four-page worksheet.

Students begin by reading information about how comparative and superlative adjectives are formed. The students then test their knowledge of irregular comparative and superlative adjectives.

Exercise A - Answer key

good    better   best
bad    worse   worst
little   less   least
much   more   most
far   further / farther furthest / farthest

Students then write the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives using the information about how they are formed.

Exercise B - Answer key

pretty   prettier  prettiest
easy    easier   easiest
big    bigger   biggest
light   lighter   lightest
heavy   heavier   heaviest
fast   faster   fastest
reliable   more reliable  most reliable
slow   slower   slowest
new    newer   newest
dry    drier   driest
happy   happier   happiest
old    older   oldest
nice    nicer   nicest
compact   more compact  most compact
tasty   tastier   tastiest
bitter   more bitter   most bitter
advanced   more advanced  most advanced
suitable   more suitable  most suitable
warm   warmer   warmest

(continued on the next page)
Next, students complete questions and answers with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets and their own answers.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. Q: What is the most interesting place you've ever been to?
   A: The Sahara desert is larger.

2. Q: What is the tallest building you've ever been in?
   A: The Gobi desert is taller.

3. Q: Which is larger, the Sahara desert or the Gobi desert?
   A: The Sahara desert is larger.

4. Q: Who is more famous, Lady Gaga or Beyoncé?
   A: Lady Gaga is more famous.

5. Q: Which country has a larger population, China or India?
   A: China has a larger population.

6. Q: Which fruit has a stronger smell, bananas or durians?
   A: Durians have a stronger smell.

7. Q: What is the best thing to do in your town or city?
   A: The best thing to do is visit the local museum.

8. Q: Which is higher, Mount Everest or K2?
   A: Mount Everest is higher.

9. Q: Who is the cleverest student in the class?
   A: The cleverest student is John.

10. Q: What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done?
    A: The most dangerous thing I've ever done was bungee jumping.

The students then go on to create two conversation questions of their own and answer them. One question should use a comparative adjective and one should use a superlative adjective.

When the students have finished, they ask and answer questions 1 to 12 with a partner.

In the last exercise, students say which things they prefer from two choices, explaining their answers using comparatives.

Afterwards, review the students' answers as a class and provide feedback.
Adjectives are used to describe nouns. If two nouns are being compared to one another, we use comparative adjectives. When comparing three or more nouns, we use superlative adjectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective form</th>
<th>Comparative form</th>
<th>Superlative form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One syllable adjectives, ending in <strong>E</strong>.</td>
<td>Add <strong>-r</strong>: wider, finer, cuter</td>
<td>Add <strong>-st</strong>: widest, finest, cutest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: wide, fine, cute</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One syllable adjectives with one vowel and one consonant at the end.</td>
<td>Double the consonant, and add <strong>-er</strong>: hotter, bigger, fatter</td>
<td>Double the consonant, and add <strong>-est</strong>: hottest, biggest, fattest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: hot, big, fat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One syllable adjectives with more than one vowel or more than one consonant at the end.</td>
<td>Add <strong>-er</strong>: lighter, neater, faster</td>
<td>Add <strong>-est</strong>: lightest, neatest, fastest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: light, neat, fast</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Two syllable adjectives, ending in <strong>Y</strong>.</td>
<td>Change <strong>y</strong> to <strong>i</strong>, then add <strong>-er</strong>: happier, sillier, lonelier</td>
<td>Change <strong>y</strong> to <strong>i</strong>, then add <strong>-est</strong>: happiest, silliest, loneliest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: happy, silly, lonely</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives with two syllables or more, not ending in <strong>Y</strong>.</td>
<td>Use <strong>more</strong> before the adjective: more modern, more interesting, more beautiful</td>
<td>Use <strong>most</strong> before the adjective: most modern, most interesting, most beautiful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examples: modern, interesting, beautiful</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A. The following adjectives are irregular and don’t follow the rules above. Do you know their comparative and superlative forms? If so, write them next to the adjectives.

- **good** ..........................................................
- **bad** ..........................................................
- **little** ..........................................................
- **much** ..........................................................
- **far** ............................................................
## B. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cheap</td>
<td>cheaper</td>
<td>cheapest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beautiful</td>
<td>more beautiful</td>
<td>most beautiful</td>
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<tr>
<td>pretty</td>
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<td>easy</td>
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<td>big</td>
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<td>slow</td>
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<td>new</td>
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<td>dry</td>
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<td>happy</td>
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<td>old</td>
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<td>nice</td>
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<td>compact</td>
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<td>tasty</td>
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<td>bitter</td>
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<tr>
<td>advanced</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>suitable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Complete the questions and answers with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets and your own answers.

1. Q: What is ........................................ (interesting) place you've ever been to?
   A: ........................................ I've ever been to is ........................................

2. Q: What is ........................................ (tall) building you've ever been in?
   A: ........................................ I've ever been in is ........................................

3. Q: Which is ........................................ (large), the Sahara desert or the Gobi desert?
   A: The ........................................ is ........................................

4. Q: Who is ........................................ (famous), Lady Gaga or Beyoncé?
   A: ........................................ is ........................................

5. Q: Which country has a ........................................ (large) population, China or India?
   A: ........................................ has ........................................

6. Q: Which fruit has a ........................................ (strong) smell, bananas or durians?
   A: ........................................ have ........................................

7. Q: What is ........................................ (good) thing to do in your town or city?
   A: The ........................................ is ........................................

8. Q: Which is ........................................ (high), Mount Everest or K2?
   A: ........................................ is ........................................

9. Q: Who is ........................................ (clever) student in the class?
   A: ........................................ is ........................................

10. Q: What is ........................................ (dangerous) thing you've ever done?
    A: ........................................ is ........................................

D. Create two conversation questions of your own and answer them. One question should use a comparative adjective and one should use a superlative adjective.

11. Q: .........................................................................................................................
    A: .........................................................................................................................

12. Q: .........................................................................................................................
    A: .........................................................................................................................

E. Now, ask and answer questions 1 to 12 with a partner.
F. Which do you prefer? Explain your answers using comparatives.

Which house would you choose to live in and why?

A. $300,000  
B. $75,000

Which car is better and why?

A. $50,000  
B. $15,000

Which watch would you like to have and why?

A. $400  
B. $75