

Grappling Grammar: Comparatives and Superlatives.

Hello and welcome to another installment of Grappling Grammar! In today's post we will explain the use and purpose of comparatives and superlatives to help to give your English level an extra boost!

Comparative adjectives are used to compare two objects or people and to say if one person or object has more of a quality than the other, these qualities can include size, height or price. These comparatives are often followed by "than" such as "bigger than".

We use superlative adjectives such as the biggest or the fastest to say that one thing or person has the highest quality of something within a group of other things or people. Here is an example: "Adam is the tallest student in the class." (*Adam es el alumno más alto de la clase.*)

How are comparatives and superlatives formed?

Depending on the structure of the adjective, a comparative or superlative can be formed in many different ways.

	Comparative	Superlative
For most single syllable adjectives, add -er for comparatives or -est for superlatives	small= smaller "My house is smaller than his." <i>Mi casa es más pequeña que la suya.</i>	small= the smallest "My brother is the smallest person in my family." <i>Mi hermano es la persona más pequeña en mi familia.</i>
For short adjectives that end in a vowel + a consonant, double the consonant and add -er or -est	Big= bigger "An elephant is bigger than a mouse." <i>Un elefante es más grande que un ratón.</i>	Big= the biggest "Russia is the biggest country in the world." <i>Rusia es el país más grande del mundo.</i>
For two syllable adjectives ending in "y", change the "y" for an "i" and add -er or -est	Heavy= heavier "This box is heavier than that one." <i>Esta caja es más pesada que esa.</i>	Heavy= the heaviest "The Sun is the heaviest object in the solar system." <i>El sol es el objeto más pesado del sistema solar.</i>
For longer adjectives (more than 3 syllables or 2 syllables ending with ful) put	Expensive= more/less expensive "This car is more/less	Expensive= the most/least expensive "This is the most expensive

<p>more or less at the front of the adjective for comparatives and the most or the least for superlatives</p>	<p>expensive than that one.” <i>Este coche es más/menos caro que ese.</i></p>	<p>car in the world.” <i>Este es el coche más caro en el mundo.</i></p>
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There are also a number of irregular adjectives that don't follow the standard comparative and superlative structures, here are some examples:

- Good - better - the best
- Bad - worse - the worst
- Far - farther/further - the farthest/furthest

We can also use expressions like (not) as ... as ... to express equality or difference which can be seen below:

- “This restaurant was **as** good **as** it was the last time we visited.” *Este restaurante era tan bueno como la última vez que lo visitamos.*
- “My coffee isn't **as** strong **as** yours.” *Mi café no es tan fuerte como el tuyo.*

Now that you've seen how to form comparative and superlative expressions let's test your knowledge with some exercises:

Fill in the gap using the adjective in brackets as either a comparative or a superlative:

1. This mountain is _____ (tall) than any other peak in the region.
2. Of all the planets in our solar system, Jupiter is _____ (large).
3. After the rain, the road became _____ (slippery) than ever before.
4. The marathon runner is _____ (fast) than his opponents.
5. She is the _____ (creative) person I know when it comes to art.
6. The new smartphone is _____ (expensive) than the previous model.
7. In our class, Jake is _____ (intelligent) student.
8. The weather in summer is _____ (hot) than in spring.
9. Among the various desserts, the chocolate cake is _____ (delicious).

10. This book is _____ (interesting) than the one I read last month.

Correct the mistakes in each sentence:

1. The cheetah is running more faster than any other animal in the jungle.
2. This is the more beautiful painting I have ever seen.
3. Of all the students in the class, Maria is the better at mathematics.
4. The weather in winter is more colder than in autumn.
5. The new model of the car is better than most fuel-efficient than the previous one.

Answers:

Fill in the gaps:

1. This mountain is **taller** than any other peak in the region.
2. Of all the planets in our solar system, Jupiter is **the largest**.
3. After the rain, the road became **more slippery** than ever before.
4. The marathon runner is **faster** than his opponents.
5. She is the **most creative** person I know when it comes to art.
6. The new smartphone is **more expensive** than the previous model.
7. In our class, Jake is **the most intelligent** student.
8. The weather in summer is **hotter** than in spring.
9. Among the various desserts, the chocolate cake is **the most delicious**.
10. This book is **more interesting** than the one I read last month.

Correct the mistakes:

1. The cheetah is running **faster** than any other animal in the jungle.
2. This is **the most beautiful** painting I have ever seen.
3. Of all the students in the class, Maria is **the best** at mathematics.
4. The weather in winter is **colder** than in autumn.
5. The new model of the car is **more** fuel-efficient than the previous one.