Name: _____          Date: _____

# How to Use the Suffixes -ER and -EST

The suffixes -er and -est are used to compare things. They are often added to the end of adjectives.
Read the rules and examples below. Then complete the sentences in the *Try it* column.

**Some rules tell us how and when to use these two suffixes.**

| Rule | Example | Try it! |
|---|---|---|
| The suffix -er should be used when you are comparing two things. | Caitlin is tall<u>er</u> than Stephanie. | Rex is ____faster____ than Spot. <br> (fast) |
| The suffix -est should be used when you are comparing more than two things. | Of all her friends, Caitlin is the tall<u>est</u>. | Rex is the ____fastest____ dog <br> (fast) <br><br> on the block. |

**Some rules tell us how to spell words with these two suffixes.**

Sometimes you can add the suffix -er or -est directly to the end of a word, like taller or tallest.
But, in other cases, adding these suffixes will change the way a word is spelled.

| Rule | Example | Try it! |
|---|---|---|
| If a word ends in a y, change the y to an i before adding the suffix -er or -est. | Bobo is funn<u>i</u>er than Sam. | I feel ____happier____ than I <br> (happy) <br> did yesterday. |
| | Bobo is the funn<u>i</u>est clown. | I am ____happiest____ of all <br> (happy) <br> when I have chocolate. |
| Words with a CVC (consonant + vowel + consonant) spelling pattern should have the last letter doubled before adding the suffix -er or -est. | The desert is hot<u>t</u>er than the beach. | The red pool noodle is ____fatter____ than the blue one. <br> (fat) |
| | The Sahara Desert is the hot<u>t</u>est desert in the world. | The red pool noodle is the ____fattest____ one of all! <br> (fat) |
| If a word ends in an e, drop the e before adding the suffix -er or -est. | Graham arrived lat<u>er</u> than Kim. | Fluffy is ____cuter____ than <br> (cute) <br> your cat. |
| | Graham was the lat<u>est</u> kid in our class. | Fluffy is the ____cutest____ <br> (cute) <br> cat on the internet. |