

Comparative and Superlative Rules **Answers**

Learn and practice the rules for one-, two-, and three-syllable adjectives.

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between two nouns they modify. For example: *My ice cream is taller than my brother's.*

A **superlative adjective** compares three or more nouns, and the highest degree of difference. For example: *My ice cream is taller than my brother's, but my sister's ice cream is the tallest.*

The rules for changing an adjective to a comparative or superlative adjective depend on the number of syllables. Learn the rules below, then practice applying them!

One-Syllable Adjectives Rules

1. If it ends in a consonant, add "er" or "est"
2. If it ends in "e", add an "r" or "st"
3. If it ends in "y", change the "y" to "i" and follow rule #1.
4. If it ends with a single vowel then a consonant, double the consonant and follow rule #1.



tall

taller

tallest

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
large	larger	largest
brown	browner	brownest
fine	finer	finest
dry	drier	driest
few	fewer	fewest
big	bigger	biggest

Choose one adjective and use its comparative or superlative form in a sentence:

Answers will vary.

Two-Syllable Adjectives Rules

1. With most two syllable words, simply add “more” before the word for comparative adjectives.
2. For superlative adjectives, add “most” before the word.
3. Common exception: If it ends in “y” or “e”, use the same rule as one syllable words.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
little	<i>littler</i>	<i>littlest</i>
fancy	<i>fancier</i>	<i>fanciest</i>
ugly	<i>uglier</i>	<i>ugliest</i>
tender	<i>more tender</i>	<i>most tender</i>
clever	<i>more clever</i>	<i>most clever</i>
itchy	<i>itchier</i>	<i>itchiest</i>

Choose one adjective and use its comparative or superlative form in a sentence:

Answers will vary.

Three or More Syllables Adjectives Rule

Add “more” or “most” before the word.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
magnificent	<i>more magnificent</i>	<i>most magnificent</i>
inexpensive	<i>more expensive</i>	<i>most expensive</i>
victorious	<i>more victorious</i>	<i>most victorious</i>
nutritious	<i>more nutritious</i>	<i>most nutritious</i>
chocolatey	<i>more chocolatey</i>	<i>most chocolatey</i>
generous	<i>more generous</i>	<i>most generous</i>

Choose one adjective and use its comparative or superlative form in a sentence:

Answers will vary.
