

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 taller <u>er</u> than Stephanie.	Rex is _____ than Spot. (fast)
The suffix -est should be used when you are comparing more than two things.	Of all her friends, Caitlin is the tallest <u>est</u> .	Rex is the _____ dog (fast) 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 funnier <u>er</u> than Sam.	I feel _____ than I (happy) did yesterday.
	Bobo is the funniest <u>est</u> clown.	I am _____ of all (happy) 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 hotter <u>er</u> than the beach.	The red pool noodle is _____ than the blue one. (fat)
	The Sahara Desert is the hottest <u>est</u> desert in the world.	The red pool noodle is the _____ one of all! (fat)
If a word ends in an e, drop the e before adding the suffix -er or -est.	Graham arrived later <u>er</u> than Kim.	Fluffy is _____ than (cute) your cat.
	Graham was the latest <u>est</u> kid in our class.	Fluffy is the _____ (cute) cat on the internet.