

Comparative and Superlative Rules

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		
brown		
fine		
dry		
few		
big		

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

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		
fancy		
ugly		
tender		
clever		
itchy		

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

Three or More Syllables Adjectives Rule

Add “more” or “most” before the word.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
magnificent		
inexpensive		
victorious		
nutritious		
chocolatey		
generous		

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