

Usage

We use adjectives to **describe nouns**.

Adjectives can be put in the following positions in a sentence:

- before nouns **e.g.** *There is a large museum.*
- after verb *to be* **e.g.** *The babies were happy.*
- after certain verbs **e.g.** *This watermelon tastes good!*

When comparing:

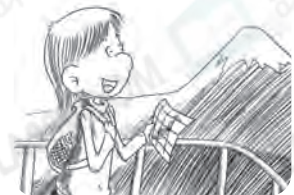
1. **two** (groups of) people or things, we use comparative adjectives.

- e.g.** *An elephant is **bigger than** a person.*
- e.g.** *A concert ticket is **more expensive than** a CD album.*



2. **three or more** (groups of) people or things, we use superlative adjectives.

- e.g.** *Mount Everest is **the highest** mountain on earth.*
- e.g.** *Andy Lau was once **the most popular** singer in Hong Kong.*





Part 1 Comparative Adjectives

When forming comparative adjectives, we need to change the spelling of adjectives in the following ways:

Adjective	Change	Example
One-syllable adj.	+ er	young → younger
One-syllable adj. (ending in -e)	+ r	nice → nicer
One-syllable adj. (ending in a vowel and a consonant)	double the last consonant + er	hot → hotter fat → fatter
Two-syllable adj. (ending in -y)	y + ier	easy → easier
Adj. of two or more syllables	+ more	famous → more famous
Irregular adj.	change the whole word	good → better

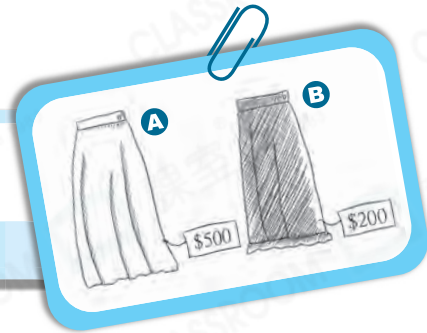


Educator's Tips



If both items in the comparison are mentioned in a sentence, we put *than* before the second item.

e.g. Skirt A is **more expensive than** Skirt B.



Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the comparative form of the adjectives in brackets. Add 'than' where necessary.

- Elsa is seven years old. She is five years younger than me. (young)
- Rita is pretty but Amy is _____. (pretty)
- Betty's handwriting is _____ mine. (bad)
- I love this game because it is _____ the other one. (exciting)
- Joe is careless but Patrick is _____. (careless)
- Yesterday was hot but today is _____. (hot)
- Mary's test result is _____ John's. (poor)
- Is Spanish _____ English? (difficult)



Part 2 Superlative Adjectives

When forming superlative adjectives, we need to change the spelling of adjectives in the following ways:

Adjective	Change	Example
One-syllable adj.	+ est	young → young est
One-syllable adj. (ending in -e)	+ st	nice → nice st
One-syllable adj. (ending in a vowel and a consonant)	double the last consonant + est	hot → hot test fat → fat ttest
Two-syllable adj. (ending in a consonant and -y)	y + iest	easy → easi est
Adj. of two or more syllables	+ most	famous → most famous
Irregular adj.	change the whole word	good → best



Educator's Tips



When using superlative adjectives, we usually add *the* before them.

✗ Candy is **most beautiful** girl in our class.

✓ Candy is **the most beautiful** girl in our class.

Exercise 2.1

Fill in the blanks with the superlative form of the adjectives given. Add 'the' where necessary. Each adjective can be used **ONCE** only.

good strong interesting large heavy far thin

- Coco eats very little. She is the thinnest cat among the three.
- Erica is doing very well. I think she is the _____ student in our class.
- Sailormoon* is _____ animation I've ever seen.
- To me, the North Pole is _____ place in the world.
- Russia is _____ country in Eastern Europe.
- Mrs Chow asked Tom to take the _____ suitcase for her because he is _____ son of hers.



Educator's Tips



For some two-syllable adjectives (e.g. *polite, quiet, simple, narrow*), we can:

1. either add *-er* or *more* to form comparative adjectives.

e.g. *friendly* → **friendlier** / **more friendly**

2. either add *-est* or *most* to form superlative adjectives.

e.g. *clever* → **cleverest** / **most clever**

Exercise 2.2

Minnie wrote an article about her classmates, but she made some mistakes about the comparative and superlative adjectives. Correct the underlined mistakes or fill in the missing words marked with a '∧'. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

My Lovely Classmates

I think I'm the (1) luckiest student in this school because I've made many new friends over this year! Life is definitely (2) colourfuler if you can always spend it with your friends. Here I'm going to introduce some of my (3) most good friends to you.

Gary Chan is our class monitor. He is (4) ∧ tidiest and the most helpful boy in our class. He is always more obedient (5) ∧ the others. Jonathan Wong is the comedian of our class. He is the (6) funny boy I have ever known. He can tell (7) gooder jokes than anyone else. Diana Liu is the most (8) cheerfullest girl in our school. She is very kind and easy to get along with.

Soon we will have the final exam. It is the (9) ∧ important exam of the year. I hope all of us will get great results!

1. _____ *luckiest*

2. _____

3.  _____

4. _____

5.  _____

6. _____





7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Unit Recap

May is reading an online chat room about the International Labour Day protest. Complete the chatroom posts with the comparative or superlative forms of the adjectives in brackets. Add 'the' or 'than' where necessary.

Subject: Did you join the protest yesterday?	
 Banana split	<p>Posted on 2 May 20XX, 7:30 pm</p> <p>My parents took me to the May 1 protest yesterday. It was (1) <u>the hottest</u> (hot) day among these weeks. Workers in Hong Kong have become (2) _____ (active) in expressing their opinions because they are (3) _____ (disappointed) with their employers.</p>
 Kitty Lau	<p>Posted on 2 May 20XX, 7:43 pm</p> <p>I joined the protest. My class teacher said we should be (4) _____ (aware) of what's happening in society. This was (5) _____ (meaningful) activity I have ever joined.</p>
 Lovedove	<p>Posted on 2 May 20XX, 8:27 pm</p> <p>Having worked for ten years, I think the working condition this year is (6) _____ (bad) before. Things are getting (7) _____ (expensive) but few workers have wage rise. There is hardly any incentive for people to work harder. I was surprised by protesters' costumes. (8) _____ (special) one was a man walking in an angry bird outfit!</p>
 Rainbowlala	<p>Posted on 2 May 20XX, 9:12 pm</p> <p>I agree with Banana Split. Hong Kong employees no longer stay silent towards employers. A (9) _____ (important) thing that we should do is to give suggestions while voicing out our thoughts. Instead of only blaming our employers, we should negotiate with them so that they can make (10) _____ (good) decisions that can benefit not only themselves but also workers.</p>



Vocabulary:

incentive (n.): something that encourages a person to do something