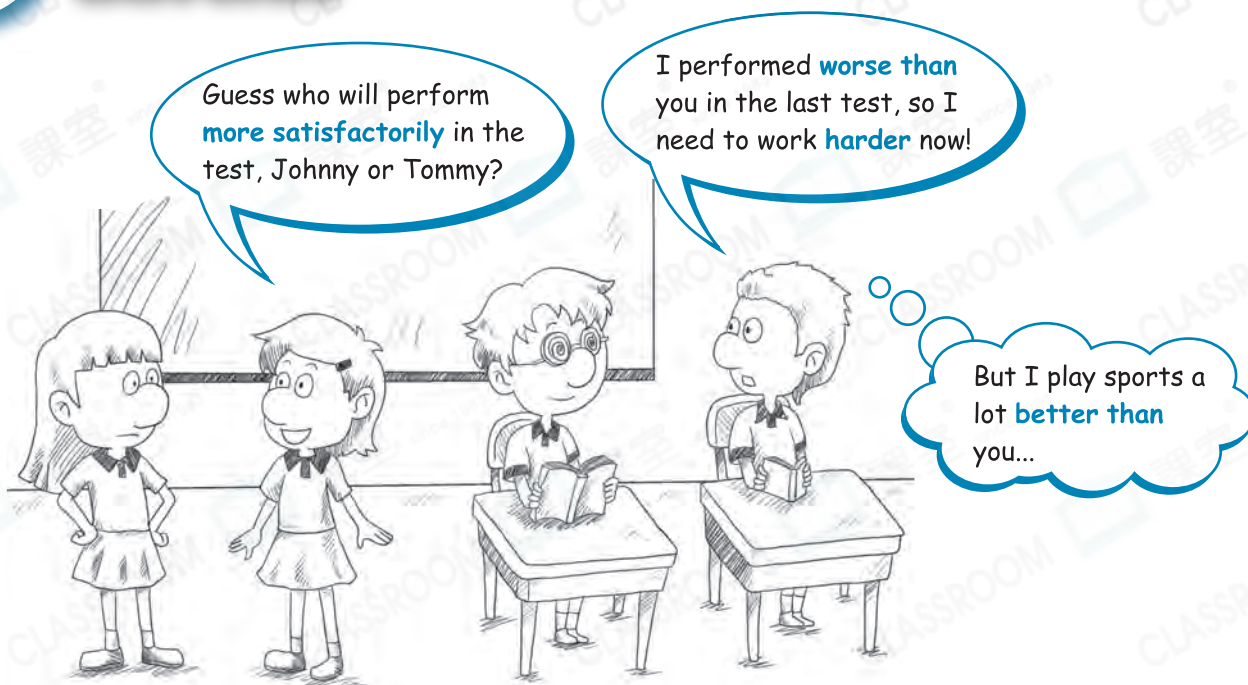


# 10

# Comparative and superlative adverbs



## Usage

In *Grammar Revolution S.1*, we learnt about adverbs of manner and degree. In this unit, we are going to learn how to use comparative and superlative adverbs to compare people's actions.

- e.g. Miss Lee smiles **sweetly**. (Adverb of manner)
- e.g. Miss Lee smiles **very** sweetly. (Adverb of degree)
- e.g. Miss Lee smiles **more sweetly than** Miss Chan. (Comparative adverb)
- e.g. Miss Lee smiles **the most sweetly** in my school. (Superlative adverb)



## Part 1 Revision: Adverbs of Manner & Degree

We use **adverbs of manner** to tell **how things happen**; while we use **adverbs of degree** to tell **the intensity of an action or a condition**. The following are some common adverbs of manner and degree:

Common adverb of manner			
slowly	happily	angrily	gently
simply	basically	fast	hard
late	well		

Common adverb of degree					
Strong		Moderate		Weak	
very	totally	fairly	quite	hardly	
really	extremely	rather		barely	

## Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct adverbs given. Each adverb can be used ONCE only.

extremely      gently      barely      late      angrily

1. Jim arrived at the party \_\_\_\_\_ because he needed to work overtime.
2. I was \_\_\_\_\_ tired after the sports day.
3. 'Do your homework now!' my dad shouted at me \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The nurse is patting the crying patient \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Susan is busy with her studies so she \_\_\_\_\_ spends time on playing games.



## Part 2 Comparative Adverbs

We use a comparative adverb to compare how an action is performed by two people. We form comparative adverbs by changing the spelling of an adverb in the following ways:

Type of adverb	Change	Example
One-syllable adv.	+ er	fast → faster
One-syllable adv. (ending in -e)	+ r	close → closer
Two-syllable adv. (ending in -y)	y + ier	early → earlier
Adv. of two or more syllables	+ more	easily → more easily
Irregular adv.	change the whole word	well → better



### Educator's Tips



**When** using adverbs to make comparisons,

1. we put *than* before the second person or thing in the comparison.

**e.g.** Mr Liu gets up **later than** his rooster.

↑  
Item 1

↑  
Item 2

2. we can use '(not) as...as' or 'less...than' with the base form of adverbs to compare how an action is performed by two people.

**e.g.** Simon sang **as well as** Becky. (= Both of them sang equally well.)

**e.g.** Calvin does **not laugh as happily as** Edgar. (= Calvin laughs **less happily than** Edgar.)




## Educator's Tips


**For** some one-syllable adverbs with the same form as the adjectives, such as *loud* and *slow*, we form comparative adverbs by:


1. adding *-er* to the adverb.  
e.g. *loud* → **louder**      *slow* → **slower**
2. adding *more* before the adverb ending in '-ly'.  
e.g. *loud* → **more loudly**      *slow* → **more slowly**


### Exercise 2


Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with '...than', 'as...as' or 'less...than' and the correct form of the adverbs in brackets.


1.  Henry drives less slowly than William. (slowly)

2.  The girl went to school \_\_\_\_\_ the boy. (late)

3.  Louisa performed \_\_\_\_\_ Lily in the English Test. (well)

4.  Dad went home \_\_\_\_\_ me today. (early)

5.  Steve is not running \_\_\_\_\_ Pete. (fast)

6.  Crystal wrote \_\_\_\_\_ Michelle. (clearly)

## Part 3 Superlative Adverbs

We use a superlative adverb to compare how an action is performed by three or more people. We form superlative adverbs by changing the spelling of an adverb in the following ways:

Type of adverb	Change	Example
One-syllable adv.	+ <b>est</b>	fast → <b>fastest</b>
One-syllable adv. (ending in -e)	+ <b>st</b>	close → <b>closest</b>
Two-syllable adv. (ending in -y)	<b>y</b> + <b>iest</b>	early → <b>earliest</b>
Adv. of two or more syllables	+ <b>most</b>	easily → <b>most</b> easily
Irregular adv.	change the whole word	well → <b>best</b>



## Educator's Tips



We usually add *the* before superlative adverbs.

✗ Sarah ran **fastest** towards the jewellery shop.

✓ Sarah ran the **fastest** towards the jewellery shop.

✓ Sarah ran the **most quickly**.



## Exercise 3.1

Fill in the blanks with the comparative or superlative form of the adverbs in brackets. Add 'than' or 'the' where necessary.

- Who works the hardest (hard) in our class?
- Aunt Mary lives \_\_\_\_\_ (close) to Grandma among all my relatives.
- The customer spoke \_\_\_\_\_ (rudely) the manager. His manner shocked everyone.
- Jonathan is running \_\_\_\_\_ (far) Perry on the running track.
- In the ball, the wife of the President dressed up \_\_\_\_\_ (elegantly), which made other women envious.
- In my family, Mum gets up \_\_\_\_\_ (early) every morning.

## Exercise 3.2

There is a mistake in each sentence. Correct the underlined mistakes or fill in the missing words marked with a '^'. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- Milan acted the bad in the drama competition last month. 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- Yesterday, Tom arrived at school earliest. 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- Does a tiger run more slow than a lion? 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- Bill did not shout as louder as Andy in the fire. 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- I serve clients more politely ^ my colleague. 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tammy jumps less higher than Amy. 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jasmine speaks English the fluently in class. 7. \_\_\_\_\_

## Unit Recap

Katy is reading an article which compares wild animals among their species. Complete the article with the correct form of adverbs in brackets. Add 'more', 'the most', 'as...as' or 'less' where necessary.

### Wild World Records

#### Learn more about the record holders in the animal world!

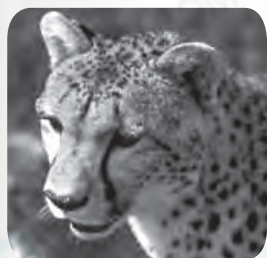


The Arctic tern travels the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (far) in the animal world. Every year, it flies from the Arctic to the Antarctic, and then travels back to the Arctic. This kind of sea bird also protects its nest and its young (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (fiercely) than other terns.

The killer whale can be identified very (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (easily) in the sea because of its white patches above and behind its eyes. Other living creatures swim (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (quickly) the killer whale as it is the swimming champion.



The sloth is the mammal that moves (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (slowly) in the world. It always hangs (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (lazily) the koala on trees.



The cheetah runs (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (fast) than any other animals on the planet. However, it does not mean that a cheetah can get a meal (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (efficiently) than other species because its prey can often escape from the chase.



#### Vocabulary:

fiercely (adv.): do something violently in force

species (n.): a set of plants or animals in which the members all have similar features to each other and can breed with each other

prey (n.): an animal that is hunted and eaten by another