

Equative, Comparative & Superlative Adjectives

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Grammar Notes

DESCRIPTIVE, COMPARATIVE, SUPERLATIVE & EQUATIVE FORMS

Adjectives have four forms.

A. Descriptive Form

The *descriptive* form is used to describe one noun or pronoun.

Rule	Examples
Adjectives are placed either immediately before the noun or after a form of the Be verb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The excited travelers visited a beautiful park. The suntanned lifeguard protected the young swimmers. The Australian woman was tall and slender. It is dangerous to climb a mountain in the winter.

B. Comparative Form

The *comparative* form is used to compare two nouns or pronouns.

Adjectives are followed by **than** in the comparative form.

Rule	Examples
For one-syllable adjectives, add <i>-er</i> . For two-syllable adjectives that end in <i>y</i> , change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>-er</i> (e.g., happy → happier).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leyla is shorter than I am. Claudia's hair is curlier than her mother's hair.
For one-syllable adjectives that end in consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC), double the final consonant and add <i>-er</i> (e.g., big → bigger).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawaii is hotter than Alaska. I got wetter than you because I forgot my umbrella.
For adjectives that end in <i>e</i> , just add <i>-r</i> to form the comparative (e.g., fine → finer).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are braver than me. The sun is larger than the moon.
For longer adjectives (two syllables or more), use <i>more</i> + adjective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helene is more optimistic than Nancy. His artwork is more beautiful than hers.

Grammar Notes cont.

C. Superlative Form

The *superlative* form of the adjective is used to compare at least three nouns or pronouns. In the superlative form, adjectives are often followed by **in**, **of**, or **out of**.

Rule	Examples
For one-syllable adjectives, add <i>the</i> + <i>-est</i> . For two-syllable adjectives that end in <i>y</i> , change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>-est</i> (e.g., happy → happiest).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruta is the youngest engineer in the firm. That pizza is the tastiest in town.
For one-syllable adjectives that end in consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC), double the final consonant and add <i>-est</i> (e.g., big → biggest).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That girl is the fittest person in this gym. I ate the biggest doughnut of them all.
For adjectives that end in <i>e</i> , just add <i>-st</i> to form the superlative (e.g., fine → finest).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That was the strangest movie of all time. Abdul is the wisest out of all my friends.
For longer adjectives (two syllables or more), use <i>the</i> + <i>most</i> + adjective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giovanna is the most intelligent of all my classmates. Your recliner is the most comfortable seat in your house.

D. Equative & Non-Equative Form

The *equative* and *non-equative* forms are used to express equality or inequality.

Rule	Examples
For any length of adjective, use <i>as</i> + adjective + <i>as</i> for the equative form, and <i>not as</i> + adjective + <i>as</i> for the non-equative form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin is as fast as Juan. Jean-Claude is as capable as his father. Reba is not as tall as Angela. Abu Dhabi is not as crowded as Seoul.

Grammar Notes cont.

E. Irregular Forms

Good		
Irregular Forms		Examples
Descriptive	good	Daniel is a good swimmer.
Comparative	better than	Olga is a better dancer than Leila.
Superlative	the best	Sheila is the best singer in the choir.
Equative	as good as	He is as good as his brother in soccer.
Non-Equative	not as good as	The Nile Restaurant is not as good as the Four Seasons.

Bad		
Irregular Forms		Examples
Descriptive	bad	The weather last weekend was bad .
Comparative	worse than	The new quarterback is worse than the old one.
Superlative	the worst	That is the worst book I have ever read.
Equative	as bad as	The New York Rangers are as bad as the New Jersey Devils.
Non-Equative	not as bad as	These cookies are not as bad as that cake.



Grammar Notes cont.

E. Irregular Forms cont.

Many (used with count nouns)		
Irregular Forms		Examples
Descriptive	many	There are many beaches on the Riviera.
Comparative	more than	Istanbul has more mosquitoes than Baghdad.
Superlative	the most	Seattle has the most coffee shops in America.
Equative	as many as	New York has as many pizza places as Naples.
Non-Equative	not as many as	There are not as many chairs in Room 316 as in Room 321.

Much (used with non-count nouns)		
Irregular Forms		Examples
Descriptive	much	Henry doesn't drink much tea.
Comparative	more than	Barbara drinks more coffee than Bruce.
Superlative	the most	Little Billy drinks the most milk in the family.
Equative	as much as	Yelma uses as much sugar as Marta.
Non-Equative	not as much as	I don't use as much salt as I used to.



Grammar Notes cont.

E. Irregular Forms cont.

Few (used with count nouns)		
Irregular Forms		Examples
Descriptive	few	There are few people in that restaurant.
Comparative	fewer than	Xavier has fewer friends than Tanya.
Superlative	the fewest	Houston has the fewest Chinese restaurants of any southern city.
Equative	as few as	There are as few parks in Pompeii as in Herculaneum.
Non-Equative	not as few as	There are not as few holes in the street as there used to be.

Little (used with non-count nouns)		
Irregular Forms		Examples
Descriptive	little	John drinks little beer.
Comparative	less than	Ashley eats less than her brother Seth.
Superlative	the least	Terrance drinks the least coffee in the office.
Equative	as little as	She uses as little sugar as she can.
Non-Equative	not as little as	Bob does not eat as little as he did five years ago.

Exercise 1

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES

Complete each sentence with an appropriate adjective.

Ex. Angela gets As on all her examinations. She is very intelligent.

1. When Carl walks into the room, everyone stares at him because he is very _____.
2. Mario weighs 360 pounds. He is really _____.
3. Mario's 21-year-old sister weighs 89 pounds. She is _____.
4. Everyone falls asleep in Professor Balongi's class because he is so _____.
5. Paris is the number one tourist city in the world because it is so _____.
6. Students are afraid of coming late to Professor Jackson's class because she is very _____.
7. I hate people who are _____. They never open their wallets.
8. My sister is incredibly _____. She shares with everybody.
9. Mark is very _____. He always comes on time.
10. Maria is a(n) _____ student. She gets the best grades in the class.
11. Helga's car is _____. She just bought it last week.
12. Germaine's truck is _____. It is from 2001.
13. Those shoes are so _____ that I cannot afford them.
14. Go ahead! Buy another pretzel. They are so _____. They only cost 50 cents.



Exercise 1 cont.

15. Ronaldo is a(n) _____ soccer player—not so good and not so bad.
16. That package is really _____. It probably weighs 100 pounds.
17. Your couch is very _____. I love to sit on it.
18. Nancy's living room is so _____ that it looks like a soccer field.
19. It is very _____ in here. Please turn on the light.
20. The lion is a(n) _____ animal. It lives in Tanzania.
21. My mother is really _____. Nothing bothers her.
22. My father gets _____ when we do not listen to him.
23. If you want to get a raise, you must be a(n) _____ worker.
24. Carlita must be _____. She never misses class.

Exercise 2

COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

Write the appropriate comparative adjectives in the blanks.

Ex. Bill is 55 years old. Bob is 51 years old.

Bill is older than Bob.

Bob is younger than Bill.

1. The black boots cost \$125. The brown boots cost \$99.

The black boots are _____ the brown boots.

The brown boots are _____ the black boots.

2. Sheila is 5'6" tall. Marsha is 5'1".

Sheila is _____ Marsha.

Marsha is _____ Sheila.

3. *The Second Stain* is interesting. *The Nanny Trap* is incredibly boring.

The Second Stain is _____ *The Nanny Trap*.

The Nanny Trap is _____ *The Second Stain*.



Exercise 2 cont.

4. The August weather in Washington, DC, is hot. The August weather in Quebec is cool.

The August weather in Washington, DC, is _____ Quebec.

The August weather in Quebec is _____ in Washington, DC.

5. Brad Pitt is a famous actor. Harvey Klinger is an unknown actor.

Brad Pitt is _____ Harvey Klinger.

Harvey Klinger is _____ Brad Pitt.

6. The Champs Elysees in Paris is a wide street. Trinity Street in Brooklyn is narrow.

The Champs Elysees is _____ Trinity Street.

Trinity Street is _____ the Champs Elysees.

7. Mount Everest is 29,029 feet high. K2 is 28,251 feet high.

Mount Everest is _____ K2.

K2 is _____ Everest.

Exercise 3

COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

Write the comparative form of the adjective in parentheses.

Ex. The art at the Louvre is more incredible than the art at the British Museum.
(incredible)

1. Emma's house is _____ than Susan's.
(big)
2. This rose is _____ than that daisy.
(beautiful)
3. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is _____ than *Brokeback Mountain*.
(interesting)
4. People who don't smoke have _____ lives than those who do smoke.
(long)
5. The tiger is _____ than the elephant.
(dangerous)
6. A vacation on the beach is _____ than a vacation in a big city.
(relaxing)
7. Gucci shoes are _____ than Uggs.
(expensive)
8. Donald Trump is _____ than Michael Jordan.
(rich)
9. The weather in Qatar is _____ than in Beijing.
(hot)
10. Senator Hudson is _____ than Senator Huxley.
(conservative)

Exercise 4

SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

Unscramble the sentences below. Use superlative adjectives.

Ex. My dog / fast / animal / state

My dog is the fastest animal in the state.

1. Henrietta / excellent / student / class

2. Boots / expensive / store

3. August / humid / month / year

4. Babbo / expensive / restaurant / city

5. Coldplay / wonderful / band / world

6. Buffalo / cold / city / country

7. Trevor / talented / cook / class

8. The Amazon / deep / river / South America

Exercise 5

EQUATIVE & NON-EQUATIVE ADJECTIVES

Write the appropriate equative or non-equative adjective in each blank.

Ex. House prices are very expensive in Vancouver, Canada. House prices are cheaper in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg house prices are _____ *not as expensive as* _____ Vancouver house prices.

1. Bob is 6'0". Mary is 6'0".

Bob is _____ Mary.

2. Italy has excellent wines. France has excellent wines.

Italy's wines are _____ French wines.

3. Walter is very handsome. Irving is also very handsome.

Walter is _____ Irving.

4. The maple tree is 69 feet high. The sycamore tree is also 69 feet high.

The maple tree is _____ the sycamore.

5. The cobra snake in the zoo is 22 feet long. The viper snake is 20 feet long.

The viper is _____ the cobra.



Exercise 5 cont.

6. Barbara gets As on every history test. James gets Cs on most history tests.

James is _____ Barbara in history class.

7. The average temperature in Miami is 74°F. The average temperature in Bangkok is 84°F.

Miami is _____ Bangkok.

8. Boston is 202 miles from New York. Washington is also 202 miles from New York.

Boston is _____ Washington from New York.

9. Coffee in the Berkshire Diner costs \$1.65. Coffee in Sal's Inn costs \$1.95.

Coffee in the Berkshire Diner is _____ coffee in Sal's Inn.

10. It is very windy in Chicago. It is also very windy in San Francisco.

Chicago is _____ San Francisco.

Exercise 6

IRREGULAR COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

Fill in the missing words in the following sentences.
Use the comparative form of the words in the word list.

Ex. Betty is an excellent cook. Brian is a so-so cook.

Betty is a *better* cook *than* Brian.

Brian is a *worse* cook *than* Betty.

1. Won Bo is a very good speaker. Noriko is not a very good speaker.

Won Bo is a _____ speaker _____ Noriko.

Noriko is a _____ speaker _____ Won Bo.

2. Usha makes fantastic cookies. Numia makes terrible cookies.

Usha makes _____ cookies _____ Numia.

Numia makes _____ cookies _____ Usha.

3. Lee drinks four cups of tea a day. Young Eun drinks two cups of tea a day.

Lee drinks _____ tea _____ Young Eun.

Young Eun drinks _____ tea _____ Lee.

4. Roberto has three close friends. Daisy has five close friends.

Roberto has _____ close friends _____ Daisy.

Daisy has _____ close friends _____ Roberto.

5. Yukie has many siblings. Alfonso has one brother.

Yukie has _____ siblings _____ Alfonso.

Alfonso has _____ siblings _____ Yukie.

Word List:

- good
- bad
- much
- many
- more
- less
- little
- few

Exercise 7

IRREGULAR MIXED FORMS

Fill in the missing words in the following sentences.

A. Soccer Players

Information

- Paolo scored 2 goals.
- Robinho scored 6 goals.
- Kaka scored 11 goals.

Words

- ~~good~~
- better
- the best

Ex. Paolo is a _____ *good* _____ soccer player.

1. Robinho is a _____ soccer player _____ Paolo.
2. Kaka is _____ player in the league.

B. Teams

Information

- Siena has 2 points.
- Empoli has 4 points.
- Venezia has 8 points.

Words

- bad
- worse
- the worst

1. Siena is _____ team in the league with only 2 points.
2. Empoli is also a _____ team.
3. Empoli is a _____ team than Venezia.

Exercise 7 cont.

C. Sugar

Information

- Maria likes 2 teaspoons of sugar.
- Sarah likes 3 teaspoons of sugar.
- Stella likes 1 teaspoon of sugar.

Words

- more
- less
- a little
- the least
- the most

1. Stella puts _____ sugar in her coffee.
2. Sarah adds _____ sugar in her coffee _____ Maria.
3. Maria puts _____ sugar in her coffee _____ Sarah.
4. Stella puts _____ amount of sugar in her coffee.
5. Sarah puts _____ amount of sugar in her coffee.
6. Maria adds _____ sugar _____ Stella.

D. Shoes

Information

- Daniela has 12 pairs of shoes.
- Gina has 18 pairs of shoes.
- Kelly has 9 pairs of shoes.

Words

- more
- the most
- fewer
- the fewest

1. Gina has _____ pairs of shoes.
2. Gina has _____ shoes _____ Kelly.
3. Kelly has _____ pairs of shoes.
4. Daniela has _____ pairs of shoes _____ Gina.
5. Daniela has _____ pairs of shoes _____ Kelly.
6. Kelly has _____ pairs of shoes _____ Daniela.

Exercise 7 cont.

E. Populations

Information

- China has 1.3 billion people.
- India has 1.2 billion people.
- The US has 300 million people.

Words

- the most
- the fewest
- more
- fewer

1. China has _____ people.
2. India has _____ people _____ the US.
3. India has _____ people _____ China.
4. China has _____ people in the world.
5. The US has _____ people of the three countries.
6. The US has _____ people _____ China or India.

Exercise 8

COMPARISON CHART I

A. Chart

Analyze the following chart comparing three people.

Name	Age	Height	Energy	Grades	Personality
Isabella	36 years old	5'6" tall	very energetic	gets As	outgoing
Rose	36 years old	5'6" tall	energetic	gets Cs	shy
Greta	41 years old	5'4" tall	lazy	gets Bs	very shy

B. Descriptive Form

Write three sentences using the *descriptive* form.

(**be + adjective** or **adjective + noun**)

- _____
- _____
- _____

C. Comparative Form

Write three sentences using the *comparative* form.

(**-er + than** or **more + adjective + than**)

- _____
- _____
- _____

Exercise 8 cont.

D. Superlative Form

Write three sentences using the *superlative* form.
(**the + -est** or **the most + adjective**)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

E. Equative / Non-Equative Form

Write three sentences using the *equative* or *non-equative* form.
(**as + adjective + as** or **not as + adjective + as**)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Exercise 9

COMPARISON CHART II

A. Chart

Analyze the following chart comparing three US states.

State	Population	Density	Size	Beaches	Lakes	Mountains
New Jersey	9,000,000	crowded	small	many	few	none
Wyoming	500,000	not crowded	very large	none	many	high
New Hampshire	800,000	not crowded	small	some	many	low

B. Descriptive Form

Write three sentences using the *descriptive* form.

(be + adjective or adjective + noun)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Comparative Form

Write three sentences using the *comparative* form.

(-er + than or more + adjective + than)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Exercise 9 cont.

D. Superlative Form

Write three sentences using the *superlative* form.
(**the + -est** or **the most + adjective**)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

E. Equative / Non-Equative Form

Write three sentences using the *equative* or *non-equative* form.
(**as + adjective + as** or **not as + adjective + as**)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Exercise 10

QUIZ

Circle the correct answer.

- Coffee is _____ than tea.
 - expensiver
 - more expensive
 - as expensive
- Jakub is _____ boy in our class.
 - the oldest
 - the most old
 - the most oldest
- Washington is _____ New York.
 - not as bigger than
 - not as bigger as
 - not as big as
- I am _____ player on the team.
 - the baddest
 - the worst
 - worse than
- There are _____ people on the streets at 2:00 am.
 - few
 - a little
 - as little as
- Riding a bicycle is _____ for the environment than driving a car.
 - good
 - the best
 - better
- Relaxing is _____ working hard.
 - as important as
 - important
 - more important as
- February is _____ month of the year.
 - the most short
 - the shortest
 - shorter
- I am shy, but my sister isn't. My sister is _____ me.
 - shyer than
 - more outgoing than
 - as shy as
- Adriana is always on time, and so is Tori. Tori is _____ Adriana.
 - less punctual than
 - more punctual than
 - as punctual as

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn and practice making comparisons using the equative, comparative, and superlative forms of adjectives. Irregular adjectives are also discussed.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 2–3 hours

TAGS: adjectives, descriptive, comparative, superlative, equative, non-equative, comparing, nouns, grammar practice, grammar

Exercise 1

Answers may vary.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. handsome | 9. punctual | 17. comfortable |
| 2. fat | 10. excellent | 18. big |
| 3. skinny | 11. new | 19. dark |
| 4. boring | 12. old | 20. wild |
| 5. beautiful | 13. expensive | 21. calm |
| 6. strict | 14. cheap | 22. angry |
| 7. cheap | 15. mediocre | 23. diligent |
| 8. generous | 16. heavy | 24. sick |

Exercise 2

- more expensive than, cheaper than
- taller than, shorter than
- more interesting than, more boring than
- hotter than, cooler than
- more famous than, more unknown than
- wider than, more narrow than
- higher than, lower than

Exercise 3

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. bigger | 6. more relaxing |
| 2. more beautiful | 7. more expensive |
| 3. more interesting | 8. richer |
| 4. longer | 9. hotter |
| 5. more dangerous | 10. more conservative |

Exercise 4

- Henrietta is the most excellent student in the class.
- Those boots are the most expensive ones in the store.
- August is the most humid month of the year.
- Babbo is the most expensive restaurant in the city.
- Coldplay is the most wonderful band in the world.
- Buffalo is the coldest city in the country.
- Trevor is the most talented cook in the class.
- The Amazon is the deepest river in South America.

Exercise 5

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. as tall as | 6. not as good as |
| 2. as excellent as | 7. not as hot as |
| 3. as handsome as | 8. as far as |
| 4. as tall as | 9. not as expensive as |
| 5. not as long as | 10. as windy as |

Exercise 6

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. better, than, worse, than | 4. fewer, than, more, than |
| 2. better, than, worse, than | 5. more, than, fewer, than |
| 3. more, than, less, than | |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 7

A. SOCCER PLAYERS

1. better, than 2. the best

B. TEAMS

1. the worst 2. bad 3. worse

C. SUGAR

1. a little 3. less, than 5. the most
2. more, than 4. the least 6. more, than

D. SHOES

1. the most 3. the fewest 5. more, than
2. more, than 4. fewer, than 6. fewer, than

E. POPULATIONS

1. the most 3. fewer, than 5. the fewest
2. more, than 4. the most 6. fewer, than

Exercise 8

Answers will vary. Possible answers include:

B. DESCRIPTIVE FORM

- Greta is lazy.
- Isabella is very energetic.
- Rose is a shy woman.

C. COMPARATIVE FORM

- Isabella is more energetic than Rose.
- Rose is less outgoing than Isabella.
- Greta is older than Isabella.

D. SUPERLATIVE FORM

- Greta is the oldest woman in the group.
- Isabella is the smartest woman in the class.
- Greta is the shyest woman in the group.

E. EQUATIVE / NON-EQUATIVE FORM

- Rose is as tall as Isabella.
- Isabella is not as old as Greta.
- Rose is not as shy as Greta.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Exercise 9

Answers will vary. Possible answers include:

B. DESCRIPTIVE FORM

- New Jersey is crowded.
- Wyoming is very large.
- New Hampshire has many lakes.

C. COMPARATIVE FORM

- New Jersey is more crowded than Wyoming.
- New Hampshire has more lakes than New Jersey.
- New Jersey has more beaches than New Hampshire.

D. SUPERLATIVE FORM

- Wyoming is the largest of the three states.
- New Jersey has the most beaches of the three states.
- Wyoming has the highest mountains of the three states.

E. EQUATIVE / NON-EQUATIVE FORM

- New Hampshire is as small as New Jersey.
- New Hampshire does not have as many beaches as New Jersey.
- Wyoming is not as crowded as New Jersey.

Exercise 10

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 5. a | 7. a | 9. b |
| 2. a | 4. b | 6. c | 8. b | 10. c |

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Traveler*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Traveller*. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.