




Degrees of Comparison



Degrees of comparison compare nouns.

There are 3 degrees of comparison:

1. The **positive** degree refers to **one** thing.
2. The **comparative** degree compares **two** things.
3. The **superlative** degree compares **more than two** things and describes the best or the most.

	POSITIVE	COMPARITIVE	SUPERLATIVE
Short vowel sound – double last letter & add <u>er</u> or <u>est</u> .	flat thin	flatter thinner	flat <u>test</u> thin <u>nest</u>
Double vowels or double consonants – just add <u>er</u> or <u>est</u> .	clean short	clean <u>er</u> short <u>er</u>	clean <u>est</u> short <u>est</u>
Words ending in e – add <u>r</u> or <u>st</u>	large nice	Larg <u>e</u> r nic <u>e</u> r	Larg <u>e</u> st nic <u>e</u> st
Words ending in y – change the y to i, then add <u>er</u> or <u>est</u>	easy pretty	easy <u>er</u> prett <u>ier</u>	easy <u>est</u> prett <u>iest</u>
Words with more than two syllables – add <u>more</u> or <u>most</u>	com/for/table in/te/res/ting	<u>more</u> comfortable <u>more</u> interesting	<u>most</u> comfortable <u>most</u> interesting
Words ending in ful – add <u>more</u> or <u>most</u>	pain <u>ful</u> beautif <u>ul</u>	<u>more</u> painful <u>more</u> beautiful	<u>most</u> painful <u>most</u> beautiful
Exceptions 	good bad many/much little/few far old	better worse more less farther/further older/elder	the best the worst the most the least the farthest/furthest the oldest/eldest

Jenny is **fit**. (positive)

Mary is **fitter** than Jenny. (comparative)

Sue, however, is the **fittest** of the three. (superlative)