

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:

Superlative Rule Breakers

Most adjectives follow a few simple rules to turn them into comparative and superlative adjectives. These rules are based on how many syllables they have. Read through these rules and the examples. Then take a look at the rule breakers at the bottom and see if you can track down their comparative and superlative forms.

One Syllable Adjectives

RULE: +er or +est, if it ends in “y” change the “y” to “i” first. If it ends in a vowel then a consonant, double the consonant.

Standard: cool > cooler > coolest

With “y” ending: dry > drier > driest

Two or More Syllable Adjectives

RULE: With most two syllable words simply add “more” or “most” before the word. Common exception: If it ends in “y”, use the same rule as one syllable words. Most longer adjective comparative and superlatives add “more” or “most” before the word.

Standard: quiet > quieter > quietest

With “y” ending: chilly > chillier > chilliest

Longer adjectives: intelligent > more intelligent > most intelligent

Those rules are pretty easy, but these rascals do their own thing and can be tricky.

Rule Breaking Adjectives

These words are rebels and don't follow any rules. Use the resources in your classroom to find the comparative and superlative forms of these defiant adjectives.

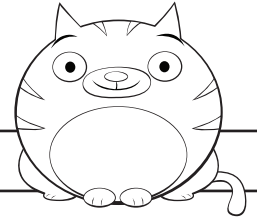
Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
good		
bad		
little		
many		
far		
much/many		
late		

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mix Up Your Sentences with Conjunctions and Adverbs

Create a sentence bank. Write twelve simple sentences with just subjects and predicates. The list has been started for you.



Sentence Bank

We went boating.
The teenager ignored his mother.
The girl turned up the TV.
The horse escaped.
I want to windsurf.
The hamburger was delicious!

Now, use conjunctions to combine the sentences in new (and maybe funny) ways. Write them below. One has been provided as an example to get you started.

Conjunctions

and, or, but, nor, for, because, since, after, either/or, not only/but also

1. I wanted to windsurf, **but** the horse escaped.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

An adverb phrase is a group of words starting with an adverb that work together to provide an extra description about the verb. Remember, adverbs tell when, frequency, how, location, to what extent. Add SIX more adverb phrases to the bank below. Some have been added for you to get you started

Adverb Phrases

Over the rainbow
Through the woods
Under the bridge
Across the finish line
Out at sea
Into the waves

Now add an adverb phrase to three of the sentences above that you created. See the example to get you started.

1. I wanted to windsurf, but the horse escaped **into the waves**.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Subtle Changes

Read each pair of sentences. Find and circle the two similar words. How have the words changed? Underline the differences. How has the meaning changed? On each line below, describe how the words are used differently.

Example:

When our teacher assigned us to groups she told us that we could talk with one another about our project. Everyone was so talkative and it was difficult to hear above the noise!

Explanation: The word talkative is an adjective that describes the students but the word, talk, is a verb and shows what the students are doing.

1. On Saturday, mom decided to wash our clothes. Unfortunately, I had gotten permanent paint on my clothes and the paint was not washable.

Explanation: _____

2. When we drove to our grandparents' house, it was pouring down rain and we could not see clearly through the windshield. By the time we got to her house, it was clear and there was not even a cloud in the sky!

Explanation: _____

3. Alissa forgot to close the fence and her dog ran through the neighborhood. Usually, she isn't a very forgetful person!

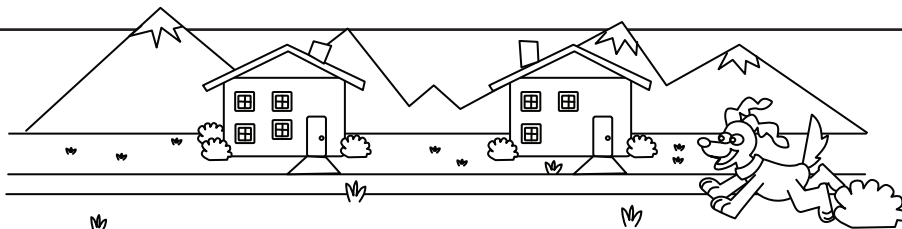
Explanation: _____

4. In art class, Michael created a sculpture using clay and paper. His art teacher admired his creation!

Explanation: _____

5. Dad will use the ladder to climb on the roof to inspect the house. That ladder sure is useful!

Explanation: _____



Possession Obsession Practice

Mastering the possessive apostrophe requires only... ONE SIMPLE RULE!

**The apostrophe is an arrow,
pointing at who is doing the owning.**



Check it out...

Possessive Apostrophe



points to the owner

The **dog's bowl** was empty.

Who does the bowl belong to? The DOG. So, the arrow, or apostrophe, points to "dog" and you add an S.

This rule even works for plural nouns. Check out these examples:

The **women's purses** all got swiped by the thief.

All of the **kids' balloons** all got swept away by the wind.

Who did the purses and balloons belong to? The WOMEN and KIDS. If the plural noun already ends in "s" just add the apostrophe.

Now try using the possessive apostrophe with singular nouns by asking, who is the owner? Insert an apostrophe in the bolded word that points to the answer.

The hoses nozzle was broken.	Who is the owner? _____
The horses mane was braided.	Who is the owner? _____
I lost my brothers favorite jersey.	Who is the owner? _____
The crowds cheers were deafening.	Who is the owner? _____

Now try it with plural nouns.

The womens dresses were all red.	Who is/are the owner(s)? _____
The cars horns were all broken.	Who is/are the owner(s)? _____
The local rivers levels were all rising after the hurricane.	Who is/are the owner(s)? _____
The kittens mittens were all lost.	Who is/are the owner(s)? _____

Now write two fun or crazy sentences that include possessive apostrophes of your own.
