

There are different degrees of comparison that can be expressed in the form of adjective you use.

A **positive adjective** does not convey any degree of comparison. It simply describes, and does not compare with anything else:

Mount Everest is a *high* mountain.

The weather is *bad*.

History is *interesting*.

A **comparative adjective** shows a comparison between one thing and another. The word **than** follows it:

Mount Everest is *higher* than Mont Blanc.

The weather is *worse* than it was yesterday.

I think history is *more interesting* than English.

A **superlative adjective** conveys the greatest degree of comparison. It tells you that something is the greatest of any others.

Mount Everest is the *highest* mountain in the world.

This is the *worst* weather for a week.

I think history is the *most interesting* subject.

Forming comparatives and superlatives

Note that some comparatives and superlatives are formed by adding the endings **-er** and **-est**, and some are formed by putting the words **more** or **most** in front of the positive adjective.



In Standard English, it is important to use the right method:

- ✘ This is the *beautifullest* garden in the street.
- ✓ This is the *most beautiful* garden in the street.

It is important not to mix the two forms:

- ✘ This is the *most happiest* day of my life.
- ✓ This is the *happiest* day of my life.

Some comparatives and superlatives are not formed either of these ways, and are known as **irregular** comparative and superlative forms.

It is important to use the correct form:

- ✘ Your calculator is *gooder* than mine.
- ✓ Your calculator is *better* than mine.



Are these positive, comparative or superlative adjectives?

pleasant	most
more boring	bad
better	least