

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

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

Chris ran *fast*.

Beckham played *well*.

Rose behaved *courageously*.

A **comparative adverb** shows a comparison between one action and another:

Chris ran *faster* when he realized he was late.

Beckham played *better* in the previous match.

Rose behaved *more courageously* than Lisa.

A **superlative adverb** conveys the greatest degree of comparison:

Chris ran *fastest* when he realized he would miss the bus.

Beckham played *best* in the final.

Pauline behaved *most courageously* of all.

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 adverb.



It is important to use the right method:

- ✘ Brian ran quicklier.
- ✓ Brian ran *more quickly*.

It is important not to mix the two forms:

- ✘ Brian ran more faster.
- ✓ Brian ran faster.

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:

- ✘ You sang gooder than me.
- ✓ You sang *better* than me.



Are these positive, comparative or superlative adverbs?

pleasantly

well

more happily

most warmly

better

soonest