COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES
COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

- One-syllable adjectives add \textit{–er} for the comparative and \textit{–est} for the superlative.

  - small  
  - nice  
  - big  
  - warm  
  - hot

  - smaller
  - nicer
  - bigger
  - warmer
  - hotter

smallest
nicest
biggest
warmest
hottest

* We use more and most before words ending in \textit{–ed}, e.g. \textit{pleased}
COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

- We use more and most with two-syllable adjectives and with longer ones.

  - careful
  - boring
  - famous
  - exciting
  - reliable

  - more careful
  - more boring
  - more famous
  - more exciting
  - more reliable

  - most careful
  - most boring
  - most famous
  - most exciting
  - most reliable
COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

- Two-syllable adjectives ending in consonant + y lose y and add **–ier** and **–iest**
  - busy → busier → busiest
  - happy → happier → happiest
  - dirty → dirtier → dirtiest

- Some two-syllable adjectives add -er / -est or have more and most, e.g. **narrow, clever, common, gentle, quiet, simple.**
COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

Spelling rules for the –er/-est endings

- Adjectives ending in –e add –r / -st, e.g. finer, safest, larger
- Adjectives ending in consonant + y lose y and add –ier / -iest, e.g. lovelier, luckiest, prettier
- Adjectives ending in a single vowel + single consonant double the consonant, e.g. fitter, sadder, thinner, wettest, hottest
Some adverbs have the same form as an adjective. They add –er / -est, e.g. earlier, fastest, harder, highest.

The rest of the adverbs (including those made from adjective + -ly) form the comparative and superlative with more / most, e.g. more often/more easily, most carefully, more slowly.
Some adjectives / adverbs have irregular forms:

- good/well
- bad/badly
- far
- better
- worse
- farther
- best
- worst
- farthest
- furthest

We can use elder / eldest instead of older / oldest for people in the same family.
We use as ... as to say that things are equal or unequal.

- Our house is as big as yours.
- It isn’t as cold as yesterday.

We often use a phrase with than after a comparison.

- The steak is more expensive than the fish.

After than/as we use an object pronoun or a personal pronoun with a verb.

- She is older than me / than I am.
- I don’t earn as much as him/as he does.
COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE PATTERNS II

- We normally use the before a superlative. The last question is the most difficult.
- Note the pattern with one of. He is one of the best lawyers.
- After a superlative we can use in or of. We use in with places and groups of people. It’s the coolest hotel in Oxford. Who’s the best player in the team? August is the hottest month of the year.
Less and least are the opposites of more and most. We use them with both long and short words.
I’m the least musical person in the world.
I go out less often these days.

We can modify the comparative with much, a lot, a bit.
It’s much faster by tube.
Business is a bit better this year.