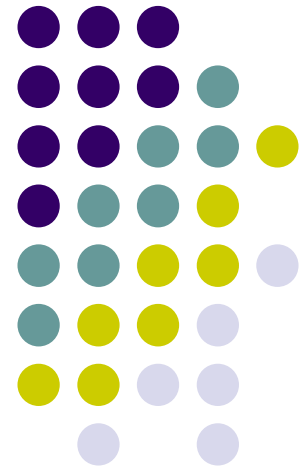


# COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

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# COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES



- One-syllable adjectives add **–er** for the comparative and **–est** for the superlative.

● small	● smaller	smallest
● nice	● nicer	nicest
● big	● bigger	biggest
● warm	● warmer	warmest
● hot	● hotter	hottest

- \* We use more and most before words ending in –ed, e.g. **pleased**

# COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES



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

● careful	● more careful	<b>most</b> careful
● boring	● more boring	<b>most</b> boring
● famous	● more famous	<b>most</b> famous
● exciting	● more exciting	<b>most</b> exciting
● reliable	● more reliable	<b>most</b> 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**

# COMPARISON OF ADVERBS



- 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**

# IRREGULAR FORMS



- Some adjectives / adverbs have irregular forms:

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

- We can use **elder / eldest** instead of older / oldest for people in the same family.

# COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE PATTERNS I



- 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.

# COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE PATTERNS III



- **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.