# ESOL Entry 3 – Comparing Things 1

# 1 of 21 - Welcome

Welcome to this session on comparing things: good, better, the best. In this unit, you will learn to compare people, places and things.

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

* Use comparative and superlative adjectives
* Write about your experiences of living in the UK

# 2 of 21 - Comparative adjectives introduction One way to compare things in English is to use adjectives. An adjective is a word that describes a noun:

# For example, an expensive phone. The word expensive is the adjective and phone is the noun.

If we want to compare two or more things, then we can use this formula:

*is + comparative adjective + than*

Some examples of this are:  
*This phone is more expensive than that one.  
That phone is cheaper than this one.*

# 3 of 21 – Comparative adjectives examples Look at the comparative adjectives in bold:

# This phone is **more expensive** than that one.

# That phone is **cheaper** than this one.

If the adjective is a long word with two or more syllables you add **more**. For example, expensive becomes more expensive.   
If the adjective is a short word with one syllable you add **er**. For example, cheap becomes cheaper.

# 4 of 21 – Comparative adjectives examples If the adjective is a long word, then we usually add more: For example, expensive becomes **more** expensive.

If the adjective is short, then we usually add **er:**  
For example, cheap becomes cheap**er**

# 5 of 21 – Comparing Things 1

Comparing two or more things, for example:

* A small house and a big house
* This house is smaller than that house
* This house is more expensive than that house

Look again at ‘this house is bigger than that house’. Big has one syllable. It is a short word. To make comparisons we add **er**. Some other examples are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| adjective | Adjective + er | Superlative adjective |
| Hot | Hotter | The hottest |
| Fast | Faster | The fastest |
| Small | Smaller | The smallest |

Look again at ‘this house is more expensive than that house’. Expensive has more than one syllable. It is not a short word. To make comparisons we add **more.** Some examples of this are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| adjective | More + adjective | Superlative adjective |
| Beautiful | More beautiful | The most beautiful |
| Intelligent | More intelligent | The most intelligent |
| Difficult | More difficult | The most difficult |

# 6 of 21 – ‘y’ words

Did you notice the words ending in y?

Adjective + er:

* Happ**y**
* Eas**y**
* Prett**y**

If a word ends in 'y' we use **er** to make it a comparative adjective but change the spelling slightly. Instead of writing 'happyer' we change the 'y' to an 'i' and add the er.

For example:

* Happ**y** becomes happ**i**er
* Eas**y** becomes eas**i**er
* Prett**y** becomes prett**i**er

# 7 of 21 – Doubling the consonant

We also have spelling changes for some short words when we add –**er**:

* Big becomes bigger
* Hot becomes hotter

Look at the spelling change. We have *doubled* a letter. Why is this?

# 8 of 21 – Doubling the consonant

In the English alphabet we have 5 vowels and 21 consonants:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vowels | Consonants |
| a, e, I, o, u | b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z |

If a short word ends in 1 vowel and 1 consonant and we add **er**, then we double the consonant:

* B**ig** becomes bi**gg**er
* H**ot** becomes ho**tt**er

# 9 of 21 – Irregular adjectives

In English, there are some adjectives that are *irregular*. This means that they do not follow the normal rules. Here are the most important ones:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adjective | Irregular adjective | Incorrect |
| Good | Better | ~~Gooder~~ |
| Bad | Worse | ~~Badder~~ |
| Far | Further/farther | ~~Farrer~~ |
| Fun | More fun | ~~Funner~~ |
| Well | Better | ~~Weller~~ |

The adjectives fun and funny have different meanings:

* Fun = entertaining   
  fun becomes more fun
* Funny = makes you laugh   
  funny becomes funnier

# 10 of 21 – Emphasis

We can make comparative adjectives stronger or weaker by using the words such as a lot, a little and much. We do this to add emphasis or more information to our sentence. Take a look at the examples below; the words in bold make the comparative adjective stronger or weaker:

1. My new phone works **a lot** better than my old one. It starts **much** quicker.
2. Muhammed works **much** harder than he used to. He’s also **a lot** more stressed than in his last job.
3. My new job is **a little** closer to my home than my last one. I can get up **a bit** later in my new job as well.

# 11 of 21 – Superlative adjectives

Earlier, we looked at this phrase:

*‘an expensive phone’*

If we want to compare a group, then we use a **superlative adjective:**

* This phone **is the most** expensive
* That phone **is the** cheap**est**

Notice the two expressions that we use:  
*is the most + adjective*

*Is adjective + est*

# 12 of 21 – Comparative adjectives examples

The rules are the same as with comparative adjectives, except that with superlatives we use **the most** and **est**:

* This phone is the most expensive
* That phone is the cheapest

If the adjective is a long word with two or more syllables you add **the most**. For example, expensive becomes the most expensive.   
If the adjective is a short word with one syllable you add ‘**the**’ and ‘**est**’. For example, cheap becomes the cheapest.

# 13 of 21 – Superlatives

Comparing all things in a group.

If we have one phone that costs £80, another that costs £200 and a laptop that costs £340, the first phone is **the cheapest***.*

The first one **is the cheapest**.  
The laptop is **the most expensive**.

Cheap has one syllable, it is a short word. To make superlatives we add **est**. For example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adjective | Adjective + er | Superlatives |
| Old | Older | The oldest |
| Large | Larger | The largest |
| Long | Longer | The longest |

Expensive has more than one syllable, it is not a short word. To make superlatives we add **the most**. For example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adjective | Adjective + er | Superlatives |
| Boring | More boring | The most boring |
| Delicious | More delicious | The most delicious |
| Disgusting | More disgusting | The most disgusting |

# 14 of 21 – Superlatives - ‘y’ words

Let’s look at some examples and how these words change.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
| Happy | Happier | The happiest |
| Easy | Easier | The easiest |
| Pretty | Prettier | The prettiest |
| Busy | Busier | The busiest |
| Lazy | Lazier | The laziest |
| Angry | Angrier | The angriest |

# 15 of 21 – Question 1

Match the adjectives with the correct title.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adjectives | | Adjective + er | More + adjective |
| Hot | Old |  |  |
| Interesting | Complicated |  |  |
| Quick | Hard |  |  |
| Useful | Nice |  |  |
| Happy | Difficult |  |  |
| Comfortable | Easy |  |  |
| Pretty | Big |  |  |

The correct answers are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adjective + er | More + adjective |
| Hot | Interesting |
| Nice | Complicated |
| Hard | Comfortable |
| Old | Useful |
| Happy | Difficult |
| Easy |  |
| Quick |  |
| Big |  |
| Pretty |  |

# 16 of 21 – Question 2

Write the correct spelling for these comparative adjectives. For example, silly = sillier.

1. Easy
2. Pretty
3. Busy
4. Lazy
5. Angry

The answers are:

1. Easy = easier
2. Pretty = prettier
3. Busy = busier
4. Lazy = lazier
5. Angry = angrier

# 17 of 21 – Question 3

Write the correct spelling for these comparative adjectives. For example, hot = hotter.

1. Wet
2. Sad
3. Fit
4. Thin
5. Red

The answers are:

1. Wet = wetter
2. Sad = sadder
3. Fit = fitter
4. Thin = thinner
5. Red = redder

# 18 of 21 – Question 4

Take a look at the sentences below.

Are they grammatically correct? Think about the use of comparative and superlative adjectives.

1. I’m happier than I was last week
2. Which is the expensiveist watch?
3. Which is largest country in the world?
4. What is the longest you have ever waited for a bus or train?

The answers are: a and d are correct, b and c are incorrect.

# 19 of 21 – Question 5

Look at the sentences below. Fill in the blanks with these words:

Longer, better, harder, more expensive, quicker, more affordable, fewer, earlier, later.

* 1. My new phone works a lot **BLANK** than my old one. It starts much **BLANK**, but it also takes **BLANK** to charge than my old one!
  2. Muhammed works a lot **BLANK** than he used to. He also gets up **BLANK** than he did before, and he gets home **BLANK**. He’s also much more stressed than in his last job.
  3. Houses are **BLANK** to buy or rent than ten years ago. The population of the country is bigger and there are **BLANK** available properties. The government say that houses need to be built quicker and they also need to be **BLANK**.

The correct answers are:

* 1. My new phone works a lot **better** than my old one. It starts much **quicker**, but it also takes **longer** to charge than my old one!
  2. Muhammed works a lot **harder** than he used to. He also gets up **earlier** than he did before, and he gets home **later**. He’s also much more stressed than in his last job.
  3. Houses are **more expensive** to buy or rent than ten years ago. The population of the country is bigger and there are **fewer** available properties. The government say that houses need to be built quicker and they also need to be **more affordable**.

# 20 of 21 – Task

**Download the writing prompt PDF**. You can practise using comparative and superlatives adjectives by writing about your time living in the UK.

Answer these questions:

1. In the UK, where’s the nearest beach to your home?
2. What’s the nicest place you’ve been to in the UK so far?
3. What is your worst experience of the UK so far?

Try to include at least six comparative and superlatives adjectives in your writing.

# 21 of 21 – End

Well done. You have completed this session on comparing things.

You should now be able to:

* Use comparative and superlative adjectives
* Write about your experiences of living in the UK

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.