

# Comparative and superlative adjectives

## Lesson 1

faster the cheapest as tall as

### Grammar lesson



Time limit: 15 min

- To compare two or more nouns with one another, we use *comparative* and *superlative* adjectives.

The *comparative* is used when we compare two nouns.

◆ This exercise book is **easier** than that one.

The *superlative* is used when we compare three or more nouns.

◆ That is **the biggest** book we have.

- To make the comparative, add *-er* to the adjective.

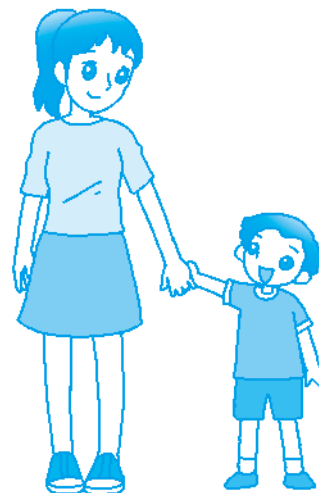
◆ Mary is **older** than Hugh.

◆ Tom is **stronger** than Ben.

- To make the superlative, add *-est* to the adjective.

We use *the* with the superlative form.

◆ John is 16, Tim is 14, and Sam is 12. Sam is **the youngest**.



There are also certain spelling changes that take place with comparative and superlative adjectives.

Adjective	Action	Example
With one syllable	+ <i>-er</i> / <i>-est</i>	tall ⇒ <b>taller</b> tall ⇒ <b>tallest</b>
Ending in single vowel then single consonant (except <i>-y</i> and <i>-w</i> )	double the consonant + <i>-er</i> / <i>-est</i>	big ⇒ <b>bigger</b> big ⇒ <b>biggest</b>
Ending in consonant and <i>-y</i>	<i>-y</i> ⇒ <i>-ier</i> / <i>-iest</i>	easy ⇒ <b>easier</b> easy ⇒ <b>easiest</b>
Ending in consonant and <i>-e</i>	<i>-e</i> + <i>-r</i> / <i>-st</i>	close ⇒ <b>closer</b> close ⇒ <b>closest</b>

- If the two nouns are the same in some way, we use *as ... as* to compare them.

◆ Mary is **as tall as** Jane.

We use the negative form *not as ... as* if they are different.

◆ This red ruler is **not as long as** the blue one.

## Practice in context



Time limit: 7 min

Ella is looking at a train timetable. Complete the description of the trains by writing the correct comparative or superlative form of *fast* or *slow* or *as ... as* in the blanks.

Train Number	100	101	102	103	104
Depart from Station A	0630	0638	0700	0708	0730
Arrive at Station B		0648		0719	
Arrive at Station C		0652		0724	
Arrive at Station D	0700	0710	0730	0742	0759

Trains 101 and 103 are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ than 100 and 104. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ train takes 5 minutes more than the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to complete the whole journey. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ train is the 103 and the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is the 104. Train 101 is 2 minutes (6) \_\_\_\_\_ than 100. Train 100 is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 102: each takes 30 minutes.



Take a break!



**Test 5**

Time limit: 5 min

You are reading a dialogue but there are some mistakes. Underline the mistakes and write the correct words above them. The first one has been done for you.

It was the first day of the holiday. Two children <sup>were talking</sup> have talked in the house.

Ross: I know the fields. We were being here many times before.

Peter: What high do you think that tree is?

Ross: I think it's about three metres high.

Peter: I dare you to climb it and then jump off it.

Ross: I don't think I should do that. You know how often Mum and Dad were telling us not to climb trees.

Peter: Oh, go on.

Ross: All right, then.

(Three minutes later)

Ross: Aaargh, help! I think I was breaking something.

Score

**Test 6**

Time limit: 10 min

You have written a diary entry but you have put too many articles in it. Cross out those that are unnecessary.

I wonder what I will be when I grow up. The accountants earn more the money than a postmen so I think I will become an accountant. I will have to study hard at the school and do all my lessons well. I will need to be especially good at the mathematics and the business studies.

As part of a work experience, I am going next a Monday to see my dad and mum at the work, as they both work as the managers in a factory. I will have to get up very early as the work starts at 7 o'clock, and finishes at 4 o'clock except on the Fridays, when it finishes at 1 o'clock. We will all travel by a bus to the factory.

Score

**Test 7**

Time limit: 10 min

Miss Wong is writing a class report. Insert the correct reflexive pronouns in the blanks.

**Class report**

All the class have enjoyed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ greatly this term and have achieved a lot this year. Well done!

You can all rightly be pleased with (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and congratulate (3) \_\_\_\_\_ warmly.

**Report for Mark**

Chinese: If Mark applies (4) \_\_\_\_\_ more, I know he will achieve more.

English: I am pleased that Mark has committed (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to work harder.

Science: Mark needs to learn to do things by (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and not depend on help from friends.

Physical Education: Mark should organize (7) \_\_\_\_\_ better and then I know he will succeed.

**Report for Deborah**

Biology: After a difficult first term at school, Deborah has learnt to behave (8) \_\_\_\_\_ well.

Mathematics: Deborah needs to tell (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to be more confident.

Physics: Deborah didn't seem to be quite (10) \_\_\_\_\_ at first but eventually settled in well.

Chemistry: Deborah should not blame (11) \_\_\_\_\_ for problems that were not her responsibility.

**Teacher's comment**

I pride (12) \_\_\_\_\_ on helping this class improve significantly this term.

Score

**Test 8**

Time limit: 7 min

Read the following letter and circle the correct connectives.

Dear parents and guardians,

We are excited to tell you that our district has been chosen to represent Hong Kong in next year's Worldwide Basketball Championships. The Championships will take place in Canada. (1. After / Before) we go, we have a lot of work to do. We need to choose the best players from different schools in the area. (2. After / Before) selection, they must practise together. (3. While / Because) they come from several different schools, they will need to learn to play together. (4. Since / While) the team is practising, everyone else will need to help raise money, (5. so / as) the cost of the trip to Canada is very high. (6. Before / When) they are in Canada, the team will also visit some famous sights. We know everyone will work very hard (7. because / so) our team has the best possible chance to win.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ko

Score

**Test 9**

Time limit: 5 min

Your brother has written the following paragraph. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

My dad has always loved his job. Last week, he (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) by his boss that the company was in a bad position. The boss said, 'Some employees (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (fire) soon.' Unfortunately my dad was one of the unlucky ones. He (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) to leave the company by the end of the month. He was sad. Mum told Dad, 'Don't worry too much, things (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (return) to normal soon.'

# Revision cards

DAY 1

## Comparative and superlative adjectives

Adjective	Action	Example
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DAY 2

## Reporting statements

Pronoun changes:

Direct speech	Reported speech
I	he / she
we	they
you	he/ she / they
me	him / her
us	them
you	him / her / them

Time and place changes:

Direct speech	Reported speech
this	that
here	there
today	that day
now	then / at that time
yesterday	the previous day / the day before
tomorrow	the following day / the next day
last week	the previous week / the week before
next month	the following month / the next month

Tense changes:

Tense	Example
Simple present ⇒ simple past	' <b>I'm</b> happy,' said Tom. ⇒ Tom said he <b>was</b> happy.
Present continuous ⇒ past continuous	' <b>I am thinking</b> about it,' he confirmed. ⇒ He confirmed he <b>was thinking</b> about it.

Modal verb	Example
will ⇒ would	'Time <b>will</b> tell,' she commented. ⇒ She commented that time <b>would</b> tell.
can ⇒ could	'I <b>can</b> do the presentation,' Tom suggested. ⇒ Tom suggested he <b>could</b> do the presentation.
may ⇒ might	'I <b>may</b> be able to help,' she hinted. ⇒ She hinted she <b>might</b> be able to help.

## DAY 3

## Prepositions of movement

- We are flying **to** New York next summer.
- I went **into** the bathroom to find some soap.
- The ambulance arrived **at** the hospital.

## DAY 4

## Conditional sentences

Use	If-clause	Main clause
To talk about facts	<b>If</b> the temperature <b>drops</b> to below 0°C, (simple present tense)	water <b>turns</b> into ice. (simple present tense)
To talk about a situation that is very probable	<b>If</b> you <b>do</b> more exercise, (simple present tense)	you <b>will</b> become healthier. (simple future tense)
To talk about a situation that is unreal or unlikely	If I <b>won</b> the lottery, (simple past tense)	I <b>would buy</b> a new house. ( <i>would</i> + base form of the verb)

## DAY 5

## Question phrases

Question phrases with *how*:

To ask about	Question phrase	Example
ability	<i>How well ...?</i>	<b>How well</b> do you play tennis?
age	<i>How old ...?</i>	<b>How old</b> is your grandfather?
distance	<i>How far ...?</i>	<b>How far</b> is it to the airport?
frequency	<i>How often ...?</i>	<b>How often</b> do you go to the library?
height	<i>How tall ...?</i>	<b>How tall</b> is Peter?
length	<i>How long ...?</i>	<b>How long</b> is your hair?
number	<i>How many ...?</i>	<b>How many</b> cousins does she have?
price	<i>How much ...?</i>	<b>How much</b> does it cost?
speed	<i>How fast ...?</i>	<b>How fast</b> can the car go?
time	<i>How long ...?</i>	<b>How long</b> does it take to fly to Bangkok?
weight	<i>How heavy ...?</i>	<b>How heavy</b> is the parcel?
	<i>How much ...?</i>	<b>How much</b> does the parcel weigh?
width	<i>How wide ...?</i>	<b>How wide</b> is the river at that point?

Question phrases with *wh*-words:

- **What time** is it?
- **What kind** of ball games do you like?
- **What about** tennis at 2.00 p.m. tomorrow?
- **Where on earth** did I leave my keys?

## Lesson 1 (p.11)

- I. 1. to                      2. in  
 3. to                        4. to  
 5. at                        6. to  
 7. to                        8. in  
 9. at                        10. at
- II. 1. to                     2. with  
 3. to                        4. From  
 5. to                        6. to  
 7. at                        8. on  
 9. off                       10. on  
 11. to                       12. in  
 13. over                    14. around  
 15. on                      16. at

## Lesson 2 (p.13)

- I. 1. along                2. X  
 3. in                        4. on  
 5. X                        6. in  
 7. X                        8. on  
 9. X                        10. X
- II. 1. at                     2. to  
 3. from                    4. X  
 5. X                        6. on  
 7. off                      8. X  
 9. off                      10. over  
 11. towards              12. at  
 13. X                      14. from

## Lesson 1 (p.15)

- I. 1. We will go to the park today unless it rains.  
 2. If there is no delay, he will receive the money next week.  
 3. If we don't / do not get permission from the principal, the end-of term disco won't / will not happen.  
 4. Unless we are unlucky, another bus will come soon.  
 5. Unless you have suffered bad toothache, you won't / will not know how painful it is.  
 6. Unless you give us the shirts before 9 a.m., we will not / won't iron them and return them to you by 6 p.m.  
 7. She won't / will not get a job unless she leaves school with good exam results.

- II. 1. G                      2. D  
 3. H                        4. A  
 5. J                        6. I  
 7. B                        8. C  
 9. E                        10. F

## Lesson 2 (p.17)

- I. 1. would ... do        2. won  
 3. had                      4. were  
 5. would buy            6. would give  
 7. would ... help      8. would help  
 9. would have          10. would want  
 11. would ... do        12. won  
 13. had                    14. would not waste  
 15. would help         16. would be

- II. 1. I                      2. G  
 3. F                        4. A  
 5. H                        6. J  
 7. C                        8. D  
 9. E                        10. B

DAY 5

Lesson 1 (p.19)

- 1. long
- 2. long
- 3. old
- 4. well
- 5. many
- 6. much
- 7. fast
- 8. far

Lesson 2 (p.21)

- I. 1. what time
- 2. Which channel
- 3. what kind
- 4. what else
- 5. which country
  
- II. 1. How many
- 2. Where
- 3. How much
- 4. heavy
- 5. How much
- 6. When
- 7. long / wide / deep
- 8. wide / deep / long
- 9. deep / long / wide
- 10. What kind

DAY 6

Lesson 1 (p.23)

- I. 1. X
- 2. the
- 3. the
- 4. X
- 5. the
- 6. X
- 7. X
- 8. X
- 9. X
- 10. X
  
- II. Do you remember your first day at **the** school? School began at **the** 9 a.m. but we arrived at **the** gate very early. All **the** mums and dads were there with their children. My mum told me later that it was **the** parents who cried more than **the** children — we were all too excited to be going to **the** school. At **the** end of **the** day, we were very happy but tired when **the** school finished at 2.45 p.m.

Lesson 2 (p.25)

I. My uncle works for **the** European Union and he wanted us to visit him in **the** Belgium. So we travelled **the** last autumn. It was the first time I had left **the** Asia and it seemed strange travelling to a different continent. We travelled by **the** plane; we flew over **the** Himalayas, including **the** Mount Everest. We left at **the** night and arrived several hours later. We stopped off in Dubai and even stayed at **the** Hilton.

We flew over **the** Alps and eventually arrived in Brussels and saw the beautiful autumn colours of red and golden trees. We also spent a few days in **the** Netherlands and visited Amsterdam.

- II. 1. at school
- 2. last January
- 3. next Tuesday
- 4. Anfield Road
- 5. from home
- 6. by bus / by train
- 7. by train / by bus
- 8. on foot

DAY 7

Lesson 1 (p.27)

- I. 1. herself
- 2. themselves
- 3. itself
- 4. themselves
- 5. myself
- 6. itself
- 7. themselves
- 8. itself
- 9. himself
- 10. herself
  
- II. 1. myself
- 2. herself
- 3. yourself
- 4. yourselves
- 5. myself