

Activity Type

Lesson, reading, writing, speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Comparatives and superlatives

Aim

To practice comparative and superlative adjective forms and structures.

Preparation

Make one copy of the lesson for each student.

Level

Elementary

Time

1 hour +

Overview

This entertaining five-page lesson is ideal for teaching or reviewing comparative and superlative adjective forms and structures. The lesson contains a grammar review and exercise based on comparative and superlative adjective forms as well as an exercise about using comparatives and superlatives in questions. The students then go on to do a comparison activity. Afterwards, students create a dialogue using the language from the lesson, which they then present to the class.

Answer key

Exercise A and B

| Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| good | better | best |
| bad | worse | worst |
| fun | more fun | most fun |
| pretty | prettier | prettiest |
| easy | easier | easiest |
| big | bigger | biggest |
| light | lighter | lightest |
| heavy | heavier | heaviest |
| fast | faster | fastest |
| reliable | more reliable | most reliable |
| slow | slower | slowest |
| new | newer | newest |
| dry | drier | driest |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| old | older | oldest |
| nice | nicer | nicest |
| compact | more compact | most compact |
| tasty | tastier | tastiest |
| bitter | more bitter | most bitter |
| advanced | more advanced | most advanced |
| suitable | more suitable | most suitable |
| warm | warmer | warmest |

Exercise C

- A: What is the **most interesting** place you've ever been to?
- A: What is **the tallest** building you've ever been in?
- A: Which is **larger**, the Sahara desert or the Gobi desert?
B: The **Sahara desert** is **larger**.
- A: Who is **more famous**, Lady Gaga or Madonna?
- A: Which country has a **larger** population, China or India?
B: **China** has a **larger population**.
- A: Which fruit has a **stronger** smell, bananas or durians?
B: **Durians** have a **stronger smell**.
- A: What is **the biggest** problem in the world today?
- A: Which is **higher**, Mount Everest or K2?
B: **Mount Everest** is **higher**.

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Comparatives and Superlatives

Adjectives are used to describe nouns. If two nouns are being compared to one another, we use comparative adjectives. When comparing three or more nouns, we use superlative adjectives.

| Adjective form | Comparative form | Superlative form |
|---|---|---|
| Only one syllable, ending in E . Examples: wide, fine, cute | Add -r : wider, finer, cuter | Add -st : widest, finest, cutest |
| Only one syllable, with one vowel and one consonant at the end. Examples: hot, big, fat | Double the consonant, and add -er : hotter, bigger, fatter | Double the consonant, and add -est : hottest, biggest, fattest |
| Only one syllable, with more than one vowel or more than one consonant at the end. Examples: light, neat, fast | Add -er : lighter, neater, faster | Add -est : lightest, neatest, fastest |
| Two syllables, ending in Y . Examples: happy, silly, lonely | Change y to i , then add -er : happier, sillier, lonelier | Change y to i , then add -est : happiest, silliest, loneliest |
| Two syllables or more, not ending in Y . Examples: modern, interesting, beautiful | Use more before the adjective: more modern, more interesting, more beautiful | Use most before the adjective: most modern, most interesting, most beautiful |

A. These adjectives don't follow the rules above. What are their comparative and superlative forms?

good _____

bad _____

fun _____

B. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives below.

| Adjective | Comparative | Superlative |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| cheap | cheaper | cheapest |
| beautiful | more beautiful | most beautiful |
| pretty | | |
| easy | | |
| big | | |
| light | | |
| heavy | | |
| fast | | |
| reliable | | |
| slow | | |
| new | | |
| dry | | |
| happy | | |
| old | | |
| nice | | |
| compact | | |
| tasty | | |
| bitter | | |
| advanced | | |
| suitable | | |
| warm | | |

C. Complete the questions and answers with comparatives and superlatives.

1. A: What is the _____ place you've ever been to? (interesting)
B: _____ I've ever been to is _____.

2. A: What is _____ building you've ever been in? (tall)
B: _____ I've ever been in is _____.

3. A: Which is _____, the Sahara desert or the Gobi desert? (large)
B: The _____ is _____.

4. A: Who is _____, Lady Gaga or Madonna? (famous)
B: _____ is _____.

5. A: Which country has a _____ population, China or India? (large)
B: _____ has _____.

6. A: Which fruit has a _____ smell, bananas or a durians? (strong)
B: _____ have _____.

7. A: What is _____ problem in the world today? (big)
B: The _____ is _____.

8. A: Which is _____, Mount Everest or K2? (high)
B: _____ is _____.



D. Which one do you prefer? Explain your answers using comparative sentences.

Which house would you choose and why?



A.

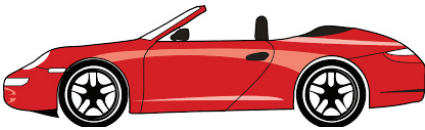
\$250,000



B.

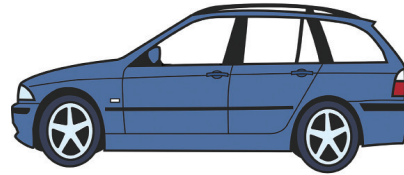
\$25,000

Which car is better and why?



A.

\$20,000



B.

\$15,000

Which watch would you like to have and why?



A.

\$250



B.

\$225

E. In pairs, use the prompts to write a conversation using comparatives and superlatives.

Two friends are at the shopping mall. One friend is looking to buy a new phone.

A: sees two phones and asks for their friend's opinion on the colour

B: says which colour they prefer and why

A: sees three more phones and asks which one is the best

B: says which one is the best and why

A: prefers another one because it looks good

B: agrees, but says that it is more expensive

A: _____

B: _____

A: _____

B: _____

A: _____

B: _____

E. Present your dialogue to the class.