COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES – UNITS 5 A &B

ADJECTIVES

I. ONE SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES:

Add *-er* (or just *-r* if the word ends with *-e*) for the comparative and *-est* for the superlative. If the adjective ends with consonant + single vowel + consonant (CVC), double the final consonant.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
tall	taller	the tallest
big	bi**gg**er	the biggest
small	smaller	the smallest
fast	faster	the fastest
high	higher	the highest

This man is **taller** than my husband.
My eyes are **bigger** than hers.
The rock flew **higher** than the roof.

Note: if the adjective ends with *–e*, just add *–r or –st*.

Her house is **nicer** than mine.
She is the **nicest** person in the room.

II. TWO-SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES:

1. If the adjective **ends with *–y***, change the *–y* in an *i* + add *–er.*

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
happy	happier	the happiest
busy	busier	the busiest
heavy	heavier	the heaviest
easy	easier	the easiest

They are **happier** than last year.
I'm **busier** than you.
He is **heavier** than me.

2. For most (= la plupart) other **two-syllable adjectives**, add *more* and *the most*.[1]

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
useful	more useful	the most useful
boring	more boring	the most boring
stressed	more stressed	the most stressed
tired	more tired	the most tired

I feel **more stressed** than ever!
The kids are **more tired** than yesterday.
The last exercise is **more boring** than the first.

III. ADJECTIVES WITH THREE OR MORE SYLLABLES:

Add *more* for the comparative or *the most* for the superlative.[2]

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
important	more important	the most important
expensive	more expensive	the most expensive
difficult	more difficult	the most difficult
intelligent	more intelligent	the most intelligent
enjoyable	more enjoyable	the most enjoyable

Love is the **most important** thing in life!
The last activity was **more enjoyable** than the first.
The blue shoes were **more expensive** than the yellow ones.

IV. IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	farther (further)	the farthest (the furthest)[3]
little	less	the least

Today is the **worst** day I've had in a long time.
You play tennis **better** than I do.
This is the **least** expensive sweater in the store.
This sweater is **less** expensive than that one.
I ran pretty far yesterday, but I ran even **farther** today.

[1] Adjectives ending with *ful, -ing and -ed always* take *more and the most.*
A few two-syllable adjectives can take either *-er/-est* or *more*/*most*. For example: *simple* and *quiet*.

[2] Exceptions : some three-syllable adjectives starting with *un-* can take either *-er/-est* or *more*/*most*.
For example : *unfriendly* or *unhappy*.

[3] When used in a metaphorical sense. (ex: *If you need **further** information, please call the reception*.)

ADVERBS

An adverb modifies an action (a verb).

I. ONE-SYLLABLE ADVERBS

With one-syllable adverbs, add *-er* to form the comparative.

ADVERB	COMPARATIVE
hard	harder
fast	faster

I'd like you to work **harder**.
Jenny runs **faster** than Sally.

II. ADVERBS ENDING IN -LY

With adverbs ending in *-ly*, use *more* to form the comparative.

ADVERB	COMPARATIVE
quietly	more quietly
slowly	more slowly

Could you speak more **quietly** please?
I'd like you to drive **more slowly**.

III. IRREGULAR ADVERBS

Some adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE
well	better
badly	worse

France played well but Spain played **better**.
She did **badly** on the test. She didn't pass.

SOURCES:

http://www.onestopenglish.com
https://www.ef.com