

COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

These are special forms of descriptive words that are used to compare more than one thing. You take an adjective and then change it depending on how many things you are describing and if the word is regular or irregular.

This sentence describes one thing:

She has a **nice** bicycle.

When you have two things you would use the **COMPARATIVE**:

Her bicycle is **NICER** than mine.

When you want to describe more than two things you use the **SUPERLATIVE**:

Her bicycle is the **THE NICEST** bicycle in the whole world.

So how do we change the adjectives into comparatives and superlatives? What you have to do is to look at the word and decide if it is one syllable or more. If it is just one, then it is regular. If not then you follow these rules:

Adjective:

1 syllable with 1 short vowel and 1 consonant at the end – **HOT, BIG.**

Comparative:

Double the consonant + 'er' = **HOTTER THAN, BIGGER THAN.**

Superlative:

THE and then double the consonant + 'est' = **THE HOTTEST, THE BIGGEST.**

2 syllables ending in 'Y' – **HAPPY, EASY.**

Change the Y to 'I' + 'er' = **HAPPIER THAN, EASIER THAN.**

THE and then change Y to 'I' + 'est' = **THE HAPPIEST, THE EASIEST.**

2 syllables or more - **INTERESTING, BEAUTIFUL.**

Use 'more' before the adjective = **MORE INTERESTING THAN, MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN.**

THE and then use 'most' before the adjective = **THE MOST INTERESTING, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL.**

In some cases, there is a new word – **GOOD, BAD, etc.,**

Use = **BETTER THAN, WORSE THAN, etc.,**

Use = **THE BEST, THE WORST.**

Sometimes, there is more than one form – **NARROW, COMMON, etc.**

Use = **NARROWER THAN / NARROWER THAN, etc.,**

Use = **THE NARROWEST / THE MOST NARROW**