

9-3 Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives and Adverbs

	Comparative		Superlative		
ONE-SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES	old wise	older wiser	the oldest the wisest		For most one-syllable adjectives, -er and -est are added.
TWO-SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES	famous pleasant	more famous more pleasant	the most famous the most pleasant		For most two-syllable adjectives, more and most are used.
	clever gentle friendly	cleverer more clever gentler more gentle friendlier more friendly	the cleverest the most clever the gentlest the most gentle the friendliest the most friendly		Some two-syllable adjectives use either -er/-est or more/most : <i>able, angry, clever, common, cruel, friendly, gentle, handsome, narrow, pleasant, polite, quiet, simple, sour.</i>
	busy pretty	busier prettier	the busiest the prettiest		-Er and -est are used with two-syllable adjectives that end in -y . The -y is changed to -i .
	ADJECTIVES WITH THREE OR MORE SYLLABLES	important fascinating	more important more fascinating	the most important the most fascinating	
IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES	good bad	better worse	the best the worst		Good and bad have irregular comparative and superlative forms.
-LY ADVERBS	carefully slowly	more carefully more slowly	the most carefully the most slowly		More and most are used with adverbs that end in -ly .*
ONE-SYLLABLE ADVERBS	fast hard	faster harder	the fastest the hardest		The -er and -est forms are used with one-syllable adverbs.
IRREGULAR ADVERBS	well badly far	better worse farther/further	the best the worst the farthest/furthest		Both farther and further are used to compare physical distances: <i>I walked farther than my friend did.</i> OR <i>I walked further than my friend did.</i> Further also means "additional": <i>I need further information.</i> NOTE: Farther cannot be used when the meaning is "additional."

*Exception: *early* is both an adjective and an adverb. Forms: *earlier, earliest.*