



Better Than the Best

 EAE Learning objectives for this lesson 

Learn how to form comparatives and superlatives. Practice discussion, reading and listening comprehension.

Activity One - Warm-up Questions

Ask and answer the following questions with a partner or your teacher

1. Do you think winter or summer is more pleasant?
2. Do you find TV shows or movies more interesting?
3. Who is the smartest person you know?
4. What is the nicest compliment you have ever been given?
5. How many people in your family are taller than you?

Activity Two - Comparatives and Superlatives

Comparatives are adjectives that compare **two** nouns. Usually when comparing with a comparative adjective, the word 'than' will be used. For example: She is taller *than* me.

Superlatives are used to compare **more than two** nouns. We use 'the' before superlative adjectives. For example: She is *the* tallest in the class.

The adjectives are formed based on a few rules. Let's learn those rules now.

To form adjectives that are only one syllable:

- ★ We usually add –er to make comparatives and –est to make superlatives

short	shorter	the shortest
cold	colder	the coldest

- ★ If the adjective ends in –e, we add just the –r for the comparative and just the –st for the superlative

strange	stranger	the strangest
nice	nicer	the nicest

- ★ If the adjective ends in a vowel and a consonant, we double the consonant (this does not change the pronunciation, only the spelling)

wet	wetter	the wettest
big	bigger	the biggest

To form adjectives that are two or more syllables:

★ If the adjective ends in a consonant and -y, we change -y to -i and add -er or -est

pretty	prettier	the prettiest
happy	happier	the happiest

★ We use 'more' to make comparatives and 'the most' to make superlatives for *most* (but not all) adjectives with two syllables and for *all* adjectives with three or more syllables

beautiful	more beautiful	the most beautiful
famous	more famous	the most famous

★ However, with these common two-syllable adjectives, you can either add either -er/-r or use 'more' with the comparative and -est/-st or use 'most' with the superlative

gentle	gentler / more gentle	the gentlest / the most gentle
handsome	handsomer / more handsome	the handsomest / the most handsome
likely	likelier / more likely	the likeliest / the most likely
narrow	narrower / more narrow	the narrowest / the most narrow
fun	funner / more fun	the funnest / the most fun
simple	simpler / more simple	the simplest / the most simple
stupid	stupider / more stupid	the stupidest / the most stupid

★ The adjectives good, bad and far have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	farther / further	the farthest / furthest

★ To compare something negatively, change -er / more for 'less' with comparative adjectives and -est / the most for 'the least' with superlative adjectives

big	less big	the least big
happy	less happy	the least happy
cold	less cold	the least cold

Try making an example for each rule using a new adjective! Get help from a partner or your teacher.

Activity Three - Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the comparative adjective in the parentheses. Use the rules from Activity Two to guide you.

1. This blue jacket is _____ (expensive) than the black one.
2. I don't think this painting is _____ (ugly) than that one.
3. We want to find a _____ (large) car than the one we own now.
4. My grandmother is _____ (old) than my grandfather.
5. She is _____ (fun) than her sister.
6. The conference room is _____ (cold, less) than the reception area.
7. Your shoes are so much _____ (dirty) than mine!

Now fill in the blanks with the correct form of the superlative adjective in the parentheses.

1. He is _____ (rude) person I've ever met!
2. They are _____ (generous) neighbors we've ever had.
3. I want _____ (good) cake for my daughter's birthday.
4. I suppose my Chemistry class is _____ (boring, less) of all my courses.
5. She lives on _____ (narrow) street in the town.
6. I want to be able to lift _____ (heavy) weights at the gym one day!
7. We tried for weeks and finally found _____ (beautiful) dress.

Activity Four - Listening comprehension

Listen to the song and find the missing words in the lyrics. Then answer the questions below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PstrAfoMKlc> Christina Aguilera - "Fighter"

Well, I thought I knew you	Made my skin a little bit thicker
Thinkin' that you were _____	Makes me that much _____
Guess I, I couldn't trust, called your bluff	So thanks for making me a fighter
_____ is up 'cause I've had enough	Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh-oh-oh, yeah, yeah, yeah ohh
You were there by my side	Never saw it coming
Always down for the ride	All of your backstabbing
But your joy ride just came down in flames	Just so you could cash in on a _____ thing
'Cause your greed sold me out in shame	Before I realized your game
After all of the _____ and cheating	I heard you're goin' 'round playin' the _____ now
You probably think that I hold resentment for you	But don't even begin feeling I'm the one to blame
But uh-uh, oh no, you're _____	'Cause you dug your own grave
'Cause if it wasn't for all that you tried to do	After all of the fights and the _____
I wouldn't know just how _____ I am to pull through	Guess you're wanting to hold me
So I wanna say thank you	But that won't _____ anymore
'Cause it makes me that much _____	No more, uh-huh, it's over
Makes me work a little bit _____	'Cause if it wasn't for all of your torture
Makes me that much wiser	I wouldn't know how to be this way now and never
So thanks for making me a fighter	back down
Made me learn a little bit _____	So I wanna say thank you

me that much _____

'Cause it makes

Makes me work a little bit _____
It makes me that much wiser
So thanks for making me a fighter

Questions:

1. What do you think the song is about?
2. What is the singer comparing?
3. What does she want to say?
4. What is she now?

Activity Five - Dialogue

Read the dialogue below with your partner or teacher. Identify the comparative and superlative adjectives. Then create your own dialogue deciding where to travel by comparing the weather in the north of France to the south of France.

Jordan: Where should we go for winter break this year? I would really like to go skiing in Colorado! I've heard it has the nicest slopes for beginner skiers.

Charlie: Don't you want to go somewhere warmer than that? I would enjoy going to the Bahamas. It's supposed to have the most beautiful water you've ever seen!

Jordan: It's true, I've seen pictures - it's the bluest, clearest water in the world...But wouldn't it be more interesting to try something new? We went to a beach last year.

Charlie: What if we went somewhere more culturally significant than Colorado? Like the Grand Canyon!

Jordan: Hmm, camping in the Grand Canyon would be less expensive than skiing so we could stay for a longer time. I like it!

Charlie: Yes! Then it's settled. We're going to have the best time!

Jordan: Sounds like a plan! Hopefully it will be even more fun than last year's winter break!

Activity Six - Discussion

Discuss your answers to the following questions with your partner or teacher.

- What is the best TV show in your opinion?
- What is your favorite food? Why do you like it more than other foods?
- Do you prefer coffee or tea? Why?
- Do you prefer outdoor activities or indoor? Why?
- What kind of vacations do you enjoy the most? What do you enjoy the least?
- What was your least favorite subject in school? Why?

Activity Seven - Role Plays

With a partner or your teacher, act out the following scenarios.

- A. You and your friends are trying to decide if you will take a trip in the winter or summer. Compare winter activities to summer activities.
- B. You and your spouse are deciding what to make for dinner tonight. They want breakfast for dinner, you want something more traditional. Compare breakfast foods to dinner foods.

How far have you got?

learning objectives



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