

COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

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FORMATION OF COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES FROM ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS

- ▶ With 1-syllable adjectives or adverbs,

we add (e)r to form comparative

soft-soft**er**

new-new**er**

large**e** – large**er**

brave**e** – brave**er**

we add (e)st to form superlative

soft- soft**est**

new-new**est**

large**e** – large**est**

brave**e** – brave**est**

- ▶ With 2 or more syllable adjectives or adverbs,

we add more to form comparative:

effective – **more** effective

interesting-**more** interesting

beautiful-**more** beautiful

we add most to form superlative:

effective– **most** effective

interesting-**most** interesting

beautiful-**most** beautiful

NOTE!

For adjectives and adverbs ending in a consonant + y we replaced the -y- with a -i-

easy – easier – easiest

dirty – dirtier – dirtiest

Irregular forms:

good – better – best

bad – worse – worst

little – less – least

many – more – most

far – farther, further – farthest, furthest

old – older, elder – oldest, eldest

TYPES OF COMPARISONS

- Constructions **as...as**, **not as...as**, **so...as**, **not so...as**, and **a...as**, **not such a...as** indicate a degree of similarity.

Example:

Lena is **not as** tall **as** her father.

Alice is **as** beautiful **as** Susie.

Constructions **as much/many...as**; **as few/little...as**; **not as much/many...as** are used to form a degree of quantity comparison

Example:

I earn **as much** money **as** you.

They have **as few** visitors **as** we have.

- ▶ The comparative degree of adjectives is used in parallel constructions of the type **the more...the more**.

Example:

The sooner, the better.

The longer she stood there, **the better** she felt.

Comparative constructions also use different adverbs (**much, a lot, a bit, a little, even**) to reinforce these constructions.

Example:

The book that I wanted to buy turned out to be **much more expensive** than I thought.

Your report will be **even better** if you make it shorter.

She would be **a lot happier** if you visited her more often.