



*She is shorter than her mother*  
*She is the shortest person in her family.*

**Shorter** and **shortest** are the comparative and superlative forms of the adjective 'short'.

We use **comparative** structures to say that something is more \_\_\_\_\_ than something else and **superlatives** to say that something is the most \_\_\_\_\_ in the group that we are comparing (i.e. more \_\_\_\_\_ than anything else in the group.)

Here are some rules for comparative and superlative adjectives:

**One-syllable** words take **-er than** and **the -est**: *fast; faster than; the fastest*

Don't forget these spelling rules!

1. after short vowels we double the last letter: - *thin; thinner than; the thinnest*
2. adjectives that end in -e take only -r and -st: - *fine; finer than; the finest*

With **three-syllable** words, and longer, we do not add -er and -est, but we use **more than** and **the most**:

*difficult; more difficult than; the most difficult*  
*objectionable; more objectionable than; the most objectionable*

**Two-syllable** adjectives are difficult, because the rules are not rigid. (Or maybe that makes them easy!)

Sometimes -er and -est endings are used, and sometimes more and the most. A few rules apply:

- i. Most adjectives ending **-y** are two-syllable words, and take **-er** and **-est**. The **"y"** changes to **"i"**:  
*easy easier than the easiest; lazy lazier than the laziest*

Adjectives ending **-ly** can be used either way: *"They look alike, but A is friendlier/ more friendly than B."*

In some cases, both forms are commonly used, e.g. simple, common, stupid, handsome, clever, polite.

*"Who is the handsomest / most handsome man in the world?"*

- ii. In some cases stress is the thing that shows us what form it takes:

words with the stress on the second syllable take more and the most: e.g. upset, exact.

Words with the stress on the **first** syllable take **-er** and the **-est**: e.g. narrow, shallow, clever.

But this is not always the case: e.g. crowded, boring, tragic, honest.

Don't worry too much about two-syllable adjectives - even English speakers use them wrongly!

However, you should **not** use more and the most plus -er and -est.

It is incorrect to say the following: *He's more stupider than his brother*

*He's the most politest person I've ever met.*



### Exercise 1:

Complete the sentences with the correct comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.

1. She is very happy now she is older. She is  (**happy**) than she ever was before.
2. Yes, I agree. I would even say she is  (**happy**) person that I know.
3. This is  (**easy**) exercise I have ever done! It is  (**easy**) than any other exercise in the course!
4. I'm sorry to say this, but this is also  (**boring**) exercise I have done in this course.
5. Do you think so? I can think of other exercises that were  (**boring**) than this one!
6. I'm happy that you are being honest about this exercise. I think you are being  (**honest**) than you were yesterday.

### Exercise 2:

Write your own sentences using the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives below.

- lovely* \_\_\_\_\_
- deceitful* \_\_\_\_\_
- moody* \_\_\_\_\_
- emotional* \_\_\_\_\_
- sad* \_\_\_\_\_
- friendly* \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Answer Key:

##### Exercise 1:

1. happier, 2. the happiest, 3. the easiest, easier, 4. the most boring, 5. more boring, 6. more honest.

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