

Comparatives & Superlatives

	Comparative	Superlative
bad		
big		
clever		
easy		
good		
hard		
hot		
intelligent		
large		
pretty		
short		
small		
strong		
tall		
weak		

General Rules for comparatives

Short adjectives (mono-syllabic)

strong	stronger	strongest
adjective	adjective + er	adjective + est

E.g. I am stronger than my daughter.
 Tom is stronger than John.
 James is the strongest boy in our class.

Adjective ending with y

pretty	prettier	prettiest
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y is changed to i

E.g. My daughter is prettier than me.
 Jane is prettier than Joan.
 Carmella is the prettiest girl in town.

Longer adjectives (multi-syllabic)

intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
adjective	more + adjective	most + adjective

E.g. The teacher is more intelligent than the student.
 Our teacher is the most intelligent person in our class.

Common Forms:

Comparative

The teacher	is	smarter	than	the students
Subject	to be	comparative	than	object

Superlative

KLCC	is	the	tallest	building	(in Kuala Lumpur)
Subject	to be	the	superlative	object	in + noun

It is very common after the object to put it in context by using in + noun (e.g. City, country or school)

DO NOT USE MORE AND ER/EST TOGETHER!

(E.g. He is more bigger than me.)

Question Answers

	Comparative	Superlative
bad	worse	worst
big	bigger	biggest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
easy	easier	easiest
good	better	best
hard	harder	hardest
hot	hotter	hottest
intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
large	larger	largest
pretty	prettier	Prettiest
short	shorter	shortest
small	smaller	smallest
strong	stronger	strongest
tall	taller	tallest
weak	weaker	weakest

Lesson Ideas

General

1. Get the students to stand up and organise themselves from the tallest to the shortest, you can then do the oldest to youngest or birthdays through the year.
2. You can compare two cities or countries. (Especially if students have come from abroad)
3. You can compare forms of transportation. E.g. bike vs car etc.

Business Students

1. You can compare two sets of businesses accounts (simplified)

Find two summaries of accounts, perhaps use Yahoo and use their summary page. Then get the students to compare the performance of the companies.

2. You can compare two graphs

A good way to do this, is to find a line-graph and place students back to back. Then get one student to explain the graph to the other student who tries to draw it. (If you have three students in a group, two students draw it)

3. You can compare two products

Find two products that the students know well and then get them to compare each product. This could also be done in the form of a sales presentation.