

Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs

Gramatika 1 - 12

ADJECTIVES

- We can divide adjectives into two types: **gradable** and **non-gradable**.
- **Gradable adjectives** can exist in different degrees (difficult - more / less difficult)
 - *This test was more difficult than the last one.*
 - *I am less tired than I was yesterday.*
- **Non-gradable adjectives** can have 'either-or' qualities (impossible - either impossible or not; alive – either alive or not)
 - *You are alive.*

CONSTRUCTIONS WITH COMPARISONS

- **as ... as is** used in the affirmative sentences shows that two people / things are similar
 - *Jane is as tall as Peter.*
 - *He was as white as a sheet.*
 - *The train was as fast as a bullet.*
- **not as ... as, not so ... as** indicate lower degree, used in negative sentences
 - *Susan is not as/not so suitable for the job as me/as I am.*
- **not such a/an (+ adjective) + noun**
 - *He's not such a hard worker as his brother.*

- **comparative + than**

- *Jane is taller than Peter.*
- *Jane is more intelligent than Peter.*
- *She is much older than us.*
- *This bag is cheaper than the red one.*

- **the + comparative** is used to compare two things of the same kind:

- *Which is the longer (of the two coats)?*
- *The grey coat is the longer (of the two coats).*

- **more than, less than and worse than + adjective**

- *I was more than pleased with my payrise. This foot-pump is worse than useless.*

- **comparatives with -er and -er**: gradual increase or decrease is expressed by **2 comparatives** (adjectives or adverbs) joined by **and**

- *The weather is getting colder and colder.*
- *He became less and less interested.*

• **the + comparative ... the + comparative**, expresses parallel increase/decrease, direct or indirect proportion

- *The more focused you are, the more successful you become.*
- *The more expensive petrol becomes, the less affordable it is to drive.*

• **the superlative ... in/of**: comparison of 3 or more people/
things

- *This is the oldest theatre in London.*
- *The youngest of the family was the most successful.*

GRADABILITY OF ADVERBS

REGULAR ADVERBS	POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
MONOSYLLABIC	<i>fast</i>	<i>faster</i>	<i>fastest</i>
TWO OR MORE SYLLABLES	<i>early</i> <i>easily</i> <i>rarely</i>	<i>earlier</i> <i>more easily</i> <i>more rarely</i>	<i>earliest</i> <i>most easily</i> <i>most rarely</i>

IRREGULAR ADVERBS	POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
	<i>well</i> <i>badly</i> <i>little</i> <i>late</i> <i>far</i>	<i>better</i> <i>worse</i> <i>less</i> <i>later</i> <i>farther/further</i>	<i>best</i> <i>worst</i> <i>least</i> <i>last</i> <i>farthest/furthest</i>

MODIFICATION OF COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

- **base forms** of adj. can be premodified by amplifying intensifiers and adverbs of degree **very, too, quite, and rather**:
 - *very tall, too cold, quite hot, rather silly, etc.*
- **comparatives** of adj can be premodified by **a bit, (very) much, far, even, hardly any, a lot, lots, a little, no, rather, somewhat, etc.:**
 - *Houses are much/far/a lot more expensive these days.*
 - *It's much/far/a lot/a little colder today than it was yesterday.*
- **inflectional superlatives** may be premodified by **very**: *the very best*
If very premodifies the superlative, a determiner is obligatory, as in
 - *She put on her very best dress.*
- **comparatives and superlatives** can also be postmodified by intensifying phrases, such as **by far**
 - *He is funnier/(the) funniest by far.*

CONSTRUCTIONS WITH COMPARISONS

- **as ... as** to indicate the same degree

John behaves as politely as Bob (does).

Sylvia sings as sweetly as her sister.

- **not as ... as; not so ... as** to indicate lower degree, used in negative sentences

John doesn't behave as/so politely as Bob (does).

He doesn't snore as/so loudly as you do.

It didn't take as/so long as I expected.

- **comparative + than**

The rain cleared more quickly than I expected.

He eats more quickly than I do/than me.

- **of + noun** with comparatives/superlatives :

Of the (two) boys, John behaves more politely.

Of the (three) boys, John behaves the most politely.

Tim tries the hardest of all the boys in his class.

Magnus concentrated the hardest (of the boys).