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w Heights Sarah Fox

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djectives and adverbs. tice adding modifiers

Forming the Degrees of Comparison

When you compare everything from places to actions and people to animals, you use degrees of comparison. The three degrees, or forms, of comparison are positive, comparative, and superlative.

A coyote runs fast. **POSITIVE**

COMPARATIVE When a lion is charging, it runs faster than a coyote.

SUPERLATIVE The cheetah is the fastest animal of all.

One-syllable modifiers To form the comparative or superlative degrees of most one-syllable modifiers, add -er or -est. (Sometimes, it is necessary to double the final consonant or drop a final -e.)

old, older, oldest fast, faster, fastest large, larger, largest slim, slimmer, slimmest

Two-syllable modifiers To form the comparative or superlative degrees of two-syllable modifiers, either add -er or -est (making any necessary spelling changes) or use more or most. If you are in doubt about what to do, use your dictionary. If -er or -est forms do not appear in the dictionary entry for the adjective or adverb, use more or most.

frisky, friskier, friskiest dirty, dirtier, dirtiest

careful, more careful, most careful rapid, more rapid, most rapid

Two-syllable modifiers that end in -ly To form the comparative or superlative degrees of two-syllable adverbs that end in -ly, add more or most. To form the comparative degrees of two-syllable adjectives that end in -ly, add -er or -est.

ADVERBS slowly, more slowly, most slowly

fully, more fully, most fully

ADJECTIVES lovely, lovelier, loveliest

ugly, uglier, ugliest

Three or more syllable modifiers To form the comparative or superlative degrees of most modifiers of three or more syllables, add more or most.

dangerous, more dangerous, most dangerous incredible, more incredible, most incredible

Decreasing degrees For all decreasing degrees of comparison, use less and least.

cold, less cold, least cold inventive, less inventive, least inventive

Irregular modifiers The modifiers in the side column form their degrees of comparison irregularly.

Lesson 12.1

Usage

Irregular Degrees of Comparison

good better best well better best bad worse worst badly worse worst worse worst many more much more most less or little least lesser farther farthest far further furthest

Avoid double comparisons. Never add both the -er or -est form and more or most.

We went the most slowest of anyone there.

STEP BY STEP

To form the comparative and superlative degree of modifiers:

- 1. Count the number of syllables.
- 2. Apply the appropriate rule or consult a dictionary. one syllable = -er and -esttwo syllables = listen and decide three or more add more syllables or most -ly adverbs = more or most