ILLUSTRATED LESSON - ENGLISH 2AC - SEMESTER 2

Comparatives and superlatives: comparing animals

A comparative compares two things: a giraffe is taller than a zebra. A superlative identifies one extreme in a stated group: this is the tallest animal in the picture. In English 2AC, choose the adjective form carefully, use than with a comparison and define the group when using the + superlative.

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By the end of this lesson, you can

- Distinguish a comparison from a group extreme
- Form common comparative and superlative adjectives
- Use than and the in complete sentences

Before you start

Read short English sentences and familiar school vocabulary.

1. Start with the situation

Distinguish a comparison from a group extreme. Form common comparative and superlative adjectives. Use than and the in complete sentences.

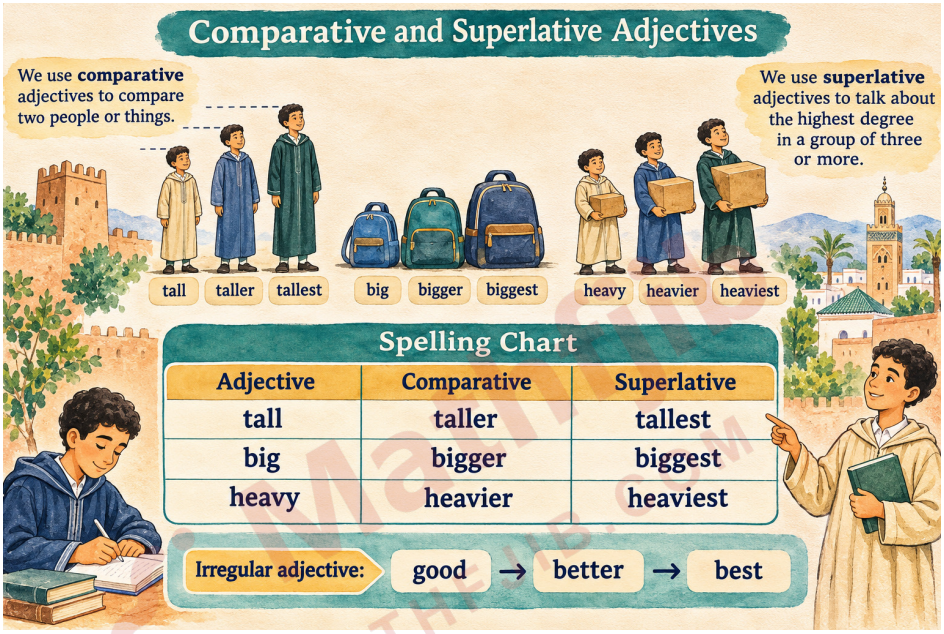


Compare the situation with the examples and explain your choice of form.

2. How do short adjectives change?

Many short adjectives take er for a comparative and est for a superlative: tall, taller, tallest. Add only r or st after a final e: large, larger, largest. For a short stressed consonant-vowel-consonant pattern, double the last consonant: big, bigger, biggest. A word ending in consonant + y usually changes y to i: heavy, heavier, heaviest.

Use than to introduce the second part of a comparison: A giraffe is taller than a zebra. Use the before a superlative in these examples: the tallest animal in the picture. Do not confuse than with then, which often connects events. A comparison can be true in one picture or dataset without making a claim about every individual animal.



Comparative: taller than. Superlative in a group: the tallest of the three.

3. When do you use more and most?

Longer adjectives commonly use more and most: more dangerous, the most dangerous. Some two-syllable adjectives vary, so learn familiar examples rather than applying a single rule to every word. In this lesson, practise shorter, bigger and heavier with the er pattern, and more dangerous with more. Do not combine both patterns: more bigger and the most biggest are incorrect.

Some forms are irregular: good becomes better and best; bad becomes worse and worst. The adjective itself changes, so gooder is incorrect. Choose an adjective that fits the information you have. A table of heights supports taller and shorter; it does not prove faster, heavier or more dangerous. Good grammar still needs a sensible comparison.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	the tallest
big	bigger	the biggest
heavy	heavier	the heaviest
dangerous	more dangerous	the most dangerous
good	better	the best

Compare drawings, using only the data

Giraffe drawing: 6 cm. Zebra drawing: 4 cm. Rabbit drawing: 2 cm. The giraffe drawing is taller than the zebra drawing. The rabbit drawing is the shortest of the three.

- All measurements describe the drawings. No real animal height or speed can be inferred from them.

4. How do you compare a stated group accurately?

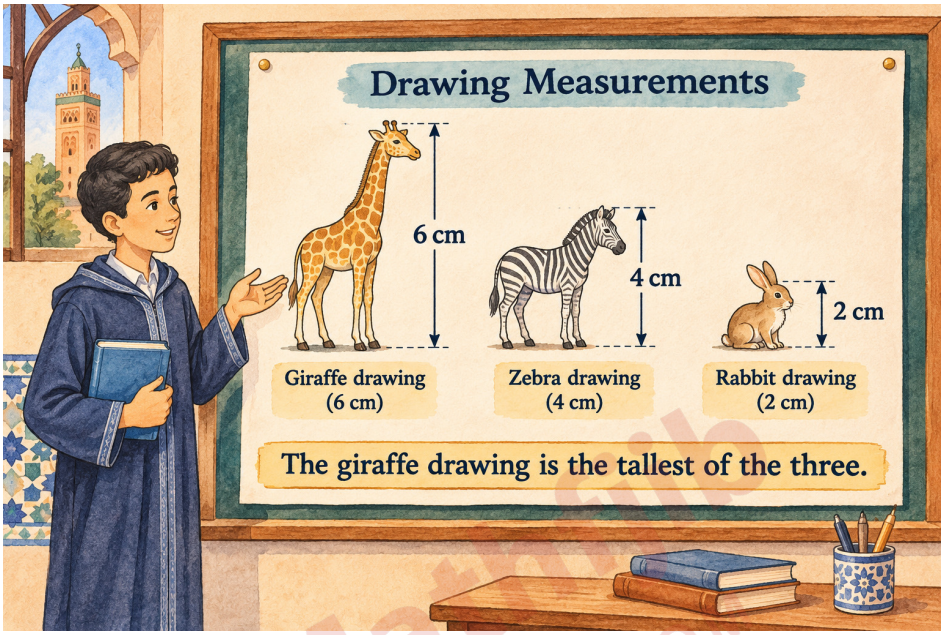
The practice chart gives invented drawing heights for three animal figures: a giraffe at 6 cm, a zebra at 4 cm and a rabbit at 2 cm. These are measurements of drawings, not real animal heights. The giraffe drawing is taller than the zebra drawing. It is the tallest of the three. The rabbit drawing is the shortest.

A superlative needs a group. Write the tallest of these three drawings, rather than the tallest animal in the world when your only evidence is a classroom chart. Read the labels, compare the same kind of measurement and include a unit if giving numbers. This habit helps you make comparisons that are both grammatically correct and supported by the task.

5. A method you can reuse

Step by step: Work step by step

1. Identify the two things or the whole group.
2. Choose an adjective supported by the data.
3. Form er/est or more/most correctly.
4. Use than for the comparison and name the group for the superlative.



Big becomes bigger and biggest. Longer adjectives often use more and most.

Remember

Write bigger, not more bigger. A picture's measurements support comparisons of that picture; they do not establish world records or real animal measurements.

Key points

- Comparative: taller than.
- Superlative in a group: the tallest of the three.
- Big becomes bigger and biggest.
- Longer adjectives often use more and most.

Exercises - Try before checking

Write your answers in your notebook. Use the lesson and write complete sentences before you read the corrections.

Exercise 1. Build the forms

Easy

Give comparative and superlative forms of tall, big and heavy.

Exercise 2. Use a long adjective

Easy

Complete with dangerous: This situation is ... than that one.

Exercise 3. Read the drawing data

Intermediate

The drawings measure 6 cm, 4 cm and 2 cm. Compare the giraffe and zebra drawings.

Exercise 4. Name the group extreme

Intermediate

Which drawing is the shortest of the three?

Exercise 5. Repair two errors

Intermediate

Correct: The giraffe drawing is more taller then the zebra drawing.

Exercise 6. Choose valid evidence

Challenge

Can a table giving only drawing heights tell you which animal runs fastest?

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Explained answers to the exercises

Exercise 1. Build the forms

Taller, the tallest; bigger, the biggest; heavier, the heaviest. Notice the doubled g and the y changing to i.

Exercise 2. Use a long adjective

More dangerous. Use more with this longer adjective, followed by than.

Exercise 3. Read the drawing data

The giraffe drawing is taller than the zebra drawing. Its 6 cm height is greater than 4 cm.

Exercise 4. Name the group extreme

The rabbit drawing is the shortest, at 2 cm. The group is the three drawings.

Exercise 5. Repair two errors

The giraffe drawing is taller than the zebra drawing. Remove more and replace then with than.

Exercise 6. Choose valid evidence

No. Height measurements do not give running speeds. You need information about speed to support fastest.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between comparative and superlative?

A comparative compares two things, usually with than. A superlative identifies an extreme within a specified group, usually with the.

Why is bigger written with two g letters?

Big has the short stressed consonant-vowel-consonant pattern, so the final g doubles before er and est.

Can I write more taller?

No. Use taller or, with a suitable longer adjective, more + adjective. Do not combine the patterns.

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Follow your teacher's sequence and instructions.
Find the lesson, the pictures and the activities online.

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