

Comparatives and Superlatives with Cities

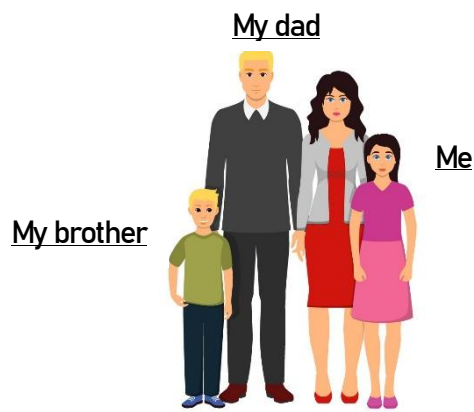
Comparatives vs Superlatives

We use an adjective + 'er' to compare two things (taller, faster, longer). The structure is 'adjective + er' + than.

For example: "*I am taller than my brother.*"

We use an adjective + 'est' to say something is *the most*. The structure is 'the adjective + est.'

For example: "*My dad is the tallest in my family.*"



When we are talking about 'good' or 'bad', comparatives and superlatives change.

For 'good' we say 'better' (comparative) and 'best' (superlative).

For example: "*I am better than my brother at football, but my mum is the best in our family.*"

For 'bad' we say 'worse' (comparative) and 'worst' (superlative).

For example: "*My brother is worse than me at math, but my dad is the worst at math in our family.*"



Warm up:

- Is July hotter than December in your country?
- Who is the best at sports in your family?
- What's the biggest city in your country?
- What is the worst city or town in your country?
- Are you more energetic in the mornings or the evenings?
- Who is the funniest person you know?



1. Read the dialogue and circle 3 examples of comparatives and 3 examples of superlatives.

"I grew up in New York, but I live in Hamburg. Hamburg is much smaller than New York, but I like that because it's much quieter too. Hamburg is not a small city; the population is about two million, but the biggest city in Germany is Berlin, which has a population of about four million people. I love living in Hamburg; it's one of the nicest cities I've ever been to, but it's not perfect. The worst thing about living in Hamburg is the traffic. It sounds crazy, but even though it is smaller than New York, the traffic is worse in a lot of places.

However, the public transport system is better than any other city I know, and it's the most reliable in Germany. The air is cleaner than in New York, and the streets feel safer, especially at night. Housing is cheaper than in New York, but it's still more expensive than in smaller German cities. The winters are colder and darker than I expected, but the summers are calmer and more relaxing than summers in big American cities.

Hamburg is also greener than most major cities, with more parks and lakes than Berlin, and I think it's the most welcoming city I know. The food scene is worse than New York's, but it's getting better every year."

Long Vs Short Adjectives

You may have noticed in the text above that sometimes we add 'er' to an adjective to make it a comparative, but sometimes we add 'more' before the adjective instead of adding 'er' at the end. Generally, if a word is 3 syllables or longer, we add 'more.' If a word is shorter, we use 'er.'

For example: "*Chicago is colder than Hong Kong.*" ('cold' = short adjective)

vs "*New York is more expensive than Hamburg.*" ('expensive' = long adjective)

The same is true for superlatives. For short adjectives we add 'est' at the end, and for long adjectives we add 'most' at the beginning.

For example: "*Munich is the coldest city in Germany*" ('cold' = short adjective)

vs "*New York is the most expensive city in America*" ('expensive' = long adjective)

Note: adjectives with two syllables can take either 'more/most' or 'er/est.' Generally, two syllable adjectives that end with an open, vowel sound take 'er/est.'

For example: busy = busier / busiest, happy = happier / happiest, simple = simpler / simplest.

Adjectives that end in harder, consonant sounds usually take the 'more/most.'

For example: boring = more boring / most boring, relaxed = more relaxed / most relaxed, polite = more polite / most polite.



2. Complete the sentences with the comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

- a) This exercise is (easy) than the last one.
- b) Of all my friends, Jenna is the (talkative).
- c) July is (cold) than January in Australia.
- d) That was the (funny) joke I've heard all week.
- e) He did very well in the test, it's one of the (impressive) results I've seen.
- f) Who is the (young) person in your family?
- g) Wednesday is the (busy) day of the week for me.
- h) This is the (bad) movie I've seen this year.
- i) Our new teacher is (friendly) than the old one.
- j) We should be careful, this is the (dangerous) area in the city.
- k) That was the (difficult) question on the test.
- l) Math is much (interesting) than English for me.
- m) This is the (important) decision I've ever made.



3. With a partner, rank the cities in the categories below. Try to use the vocabulary you have learned so far.

New York	Hong Kong	Mexico City	Melbourne	Moscow
----------	-----------	-------------	-----------	--------

Population (biggest to smallest): 1) 2)


3) 4) 5)

Average temperature (hottest to coldest): 1) 2)

3) 4) 5)

Cost of living (most expensive to cheapest): 1) 2)

3) 4) 5)

 **4. Write 3 comparative and 3 superlative sentences about what you and your partner decided from the previous page.**

Comparatives:

For example: *"We think is more expensive than..."*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Superlatives:

For example: *"We think the biggest city is....."*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)



 **5. Look at the information and compare it with your guesses from the previous page.**

For example: *"We thought was the biggest city, but it's actually"* or *"..... is colder than I thought."*

Population (biggest to smallest): 1) Moscow (12.5 million) 2) Mexico city (9.2 million)
 3) New York (8.5 million) 4) Hong Kong (7.5 million) 5) Melbourne (5.1 million)

Average temperature (hottest to coldest): 1) Hong Kong (23 °C) 2) Mexico City (17 °C)
 3) Melbourne (15 °C) 4) New York (13 °C) 5) Moscow (6 °C)

Cost of living (most expensive to cheapest, per month including rent):

1) New York (\$5,500) 2) Hong Kong (\$3,200) 3) Melbourne (\$2,600)
 4) Moscow (\$1,700) 5) Mexico City (\$1,200)

As (adjective) as

We can use the structure 'as' + adjective + 'as' to say two things are the same.

For example: "I am as tall as my brother, we are both 180cm."

We can also use 'not as' + adjective + 'as' to compare things negatively.

For example: "I am not as tall as my brother" means the same thing as "My brother is taller than me."




6. Use the negative 'not as...as' structure to complete the sentences below with any adjective that makes sense in the context.

- a) This café ise.g. "*not as good as*"..... the one near my house
- b) Winter here is winter in Canada.
- c) The second movie was the first one.
- d) Her hair looks nice, but I still think it's my hair.
- e) He is he thinks he is at football.
- f) This app is it looks, it's actually quite easy to use!
- g) My father is my mother, she has way more friends.
- h) I know you think you're the smartest person here, but you're you think you are.
- i) In high school I was most of the other students.
- j) The hotel was we expected, we weren't very happy with it.



7. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner. Try to use the 'not as... as' structure in your answer.

- a) Is your current house bigger or smaller than the house you grew up in?
- b) What is more important to you, money or time?
- c) Is English harder to learn than your native language?
- d) Are you more confident now than you were five years ago?
- e) Do you prefer shopping online or in a store? Why?
- f) Would you prefer to live in the city or in the countryside? Why?

 **8. Write a text comparing either two cities you know, or two areas within the city you live in. Try to use all the structures you have studied so far.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

 **9. Listen to the conversation¹ between Janet and Bridger and answer the questions.**

- a) Why did Janet find Vienna stressful, and why does Bridger find it relaxing?
- b) Why didn't Bridger stay in Paris?
- c) Which city had the best food according to Bridger?
- d) What are two reasons Bridger didn't like living in Rome?
- e) What are two reasons Bridger likes Amsterdam so much?
- f) What does Janet think about the people in Vienna, and what does Bridger think about them?
- g) What does Janet think will help Bridger like Vienna more?

¹ <http://quick-and-easy-english.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/comparatives-and-superlatives-cities.mp3>