

Shakespeare Shall I compare thee...

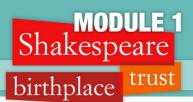


Comparatives and superlatives

-er and -est

The rule for most adjectives with one or two syllables is to add **-er** for the comparative and **-est** for the superlative. With adjectives ending in 'y' the y changes to i for the comparative and superlative forms.

positive	comparative	superlative
funny	funnier	funniest
big		
clear		
cold		
deep		
few		
great		
high		
hot		
long		
lovely		
narrow		
new		
old		
pretty		
shady		
shallow		
small		
sunny		
tall		
wide		
young		



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Comparatives and superlatives (continued)

more and most

The rule for adjectives with three of more syllables is to add *more* before the word (comparative) and *the most* after the word (superlative). This rule applies to some two-syllable words too.

Complete the table as shown in the example

positive	comparative	superlative
certain	more certain	the most certain
beautiful		
essential		
famous		
historic		
important		
intelligent		
natural		
popular		
romantic		
significant		
successful		
suitable		
tragic		

Irregular Forms

These rules don't work for a few of the most common English adjectives. The comparative and superlative forms look very different from the positive adjective. Here are some examples which will be useful for you to remember.

positive	comparative	superlative
good	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
little	less	the least