

## 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     |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>funny</i> | <i>funnier</i> | <i>funniest</i> |
| big          |                |                 |
| clear        |                |                 |
| cold         |                |                 |
| deep         |                |                 |
| few          |                |                 |
| great        |                |                 |
| high         |                |                 |
| hot          |                |                 |
| long         |                |                 |
| lovely       |                |                 |
| narrow       |                |                 |
| new          |                |                 |
| old          |                |                 |
| pretty       |                |                 |
| shady        |                |                 |
| shallow      |                |                 |
| small        |                |                 |
| sunny        |                |                 |
| tall         |                |                 |
| wide         |                |                 |
| young        |                |                 |

## Comparatives and superlatives (continued)

### more and most

The rule for adjectives with three or 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             |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>certain</i> | <i>more certain</i> | <i>the most certain</i> |
| 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      |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <i>good</i>   | <i>better</i> | <i>the best</i>  |
| <i>bad</i>    | <i>worse</i>  | <i>the worst</i> |
| <i>little</i> | <i>less</i>   | <i>the least</i> |