

Language of comparison

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Comparatives and superlatives are used to express degrees of comparison

Comparatives are used to show the difference between two things:

*Auckland is **better than** Wellington*

Superlatives are used to show the greatest degree of a quality or quantity among three or more things.

*It is **the most exciting** city in NZ.*

Comparatives are formed by adding the suffix “**er**” or the preceding word “**more.**”

Superlatives are formed by adding the suffix “**est**” or the preceding word “**most.**”

The correct comparative and superlative forms of an adjective depend on the number of syllables in the adjective

	comparative	superlative
Adjectives of one syllable: cheap, fast, large, weak	... er than cheaper, faster, larger, weaker	(the) ...est cheapest, fastest, largest, weakest

Adjectives of two or more syllables

There are 3 types of comparison

1 **to a higher degree** (comparative form + **than**)

The investors are **more concerned** about economic issues **than** environmental ones.

This strategy is **better than** the previous one.

2 **to the same degree** (**as.....as** in the affirmative; **not as as** in the negative)

The price is **as good as** the original quote.

not as relevant **as** the ones from last week.

3 **to a lower degree** (**less + than** and **the least**)

It was far **less** of an issue **than** the original problem.

It was **the least** difficult question to answer.

Balancing contrasting points

however, while, whereas