Comparison (Steigerung) of English adjectives

Regular adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>einsilbige Adjektive:</th>
<th>mehrsilbige Adjektive:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grundform:</td>
<td>cheap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komparativ:</td>
<td>cheaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superlativ:</td>
<td>cheapest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>most expensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Die Steigerungsstufen einsilbiger Eigenschaftswörter werden durch Anhängen von –er bzw. –est gebildet.
- Eigenschaftswörter, die auf –y enden, werden so gebildet: -ier und –iest, z.B.:
  noisy – noisier – noisiest
- Mehrsilbige Eigenschaftswörter bilden ihre Steigerungsstufen durch Voranstellen von more und most.

Irregular adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grundform:</th>
<th>good</th>
<th>bad/ill</th>
<th>much/many</th>
<th>little (klein/wenig)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Komparativ:</td>
<td>better</td>
<td>worse</td>
<td>more</td>
<td>smaller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superlativ:</td>
<td>best</td>
<td>worst</td>
<td>most</td>
<td>smallest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) only for uncountable nouns (otherwise: few – fewer – fewest)

Double forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>positive</th>
<th>far</th>
<th>late</th>
<th>near</th>
<th>old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>comparative</td>
<td>farther1)</td>
<td>further</td>
<td>later2)</td>
<td>nearer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superlative</td>
<td>farthest</td>
<td>furthest</td>
<td>latest3)</td>
<td>nearest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entfernt</td>
<td>früher</td>
<td>später</td>
<td>letzte</td>
<td>Alter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 distance (Entfernung) 2) order (Reihenfolge) 3) time (Zeit) 4 family (Familie)

Equality (Gleichheit):

My shirt is as / so cheap as yours.

Inequality (Ungleichheit):

His trousers are not so / as expensive as mine.

cheaper / better + than
more / less + adj. + than

Her job is better than mine.
(Her job is better paid than mine)
The film was more / less interesting than the novel.
Exercise 1. Complete the sentences with the correct comparative form (more / -er) of the given adjectives.

cold important smart nosy good generous bad tidy interesting quick calm

Example: Brr! It’s really cold today. It’s even colder than it was yesterday.

1. My desk is so untidy. I wish it were __________________.
2. Our new CEO has given all of us nice raises this year. He is ________________ than the last CEO.
3. I’ll call the customer later. I need to finish this design right now. The design is __________ than calling my client.
4. Mark never loses his temper in tense situations. He’s _______________ than most of the other managers.
5. Let’s fly to London. It’ll be ____________ than driving there.
6. Thomas constantly asks me personal questions. He’s _______________ than Rob, who only asks me questions related to work.
7. Our company is going down the drain. The situation is becoming _____________ every day.
8. Your English is definitely improving. It’s getting _______________.
9. I can’t put this book down. It’s _______________ than the last one I read.
10. Janet is very intelligent. Her colleagues could learn a lot from her: She’s _____________ than the rest of them.

Exercise 2. Read the sentences about Paul and Matt, two colleagues. Rewrite the sentences so that they have the same meaning.

Examples: Paul and Matt are 6 feet tall. Paul is (just) as tall as Matt.
Paul is not as tired as Matt today. Matt is more tired than Paul.

1. Matt and Paul have worked for the same company for 10 years. Matt has worked there _____________.
2. Matt is thinner than Paul. Paul is ___________________.
3. Paul’s hair is shorter than Matt’s. Matt’s hair _________________.
4. Matt is shyer than Paul. Paul is ___________________.
5. Paul and Matt are both hard workers. Matt is _________________.
6. Paul is younger than Matt. Matt is _____________________.
7. Matt isn’t as handsome as Paul. Paul is ___________________.
8. Paul isn’t as intelligent as Matt. Matt is _______________________.

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences with the correct superlative form of one of the given adjectives.

short long bad high near small interesting big expensive famous

1. The Nile is the _______________ river in the world.
2. Mr. Davids went to four interesting workshops at the conference. The workshop on new automobile technologies was the _________________.
3. The _______________ mountain in North America is Mt. McKinley.
4. The _______________ lake in North America is Lake Superior.
5. The ____________ month of the year is February.
6. Mercury is the ____________ planet to the sun.
7. Drinks cost a lot at this restaurant, and a bottle of old wine is the ________________.
8. Australia is the ______________ continent in the world.
9. The Statue of Liberty is the ____________ landmark in New York City.
10. Our company has had a number of bad CEOs, but our current CEO is the __________.

Exercise 4. Look at the chart and compare three electric drills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DeWalt drill</th>
<th>Grip drill</th>
<th>Panasonic drill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chuck (Bohrfutter)</td>
<td>½ inch</td>
<td>⅜ inch</td>
<td>⅞ inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drill speed</td>
<td>0 – 1,600rpm</td>
<td>0 – 900rpm</td>
<td>0 – 1550rpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tool weight</td>
<td>6.9 lbs.</td>
<td>4.9 lbs.</td>
<td>5.9 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>price</td>
<td>$498.00</td>
<td>$39.95</td>
<td>$340.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The Grip drill has the ____________ chuck. (small)
2. The DeWalt drill’s chuck is ______________ the Panasonic drill’s. (large)
3. The Grip drill has the ______________ speed. (slow)
4. The Panasonic drill’s speed is ______________ the Grip drill’s. (fast)
5. The DeWalt drill’s speed is the ______________. (fast)
6. The Grip drill is the ______________. (light)
7. The Panasonic drill is ______________ the DeWalt drill. (light)
8. The DeWalt drill is the ______________. (heavy)
9. The Grip drill is the ______________. (cheap)
10. The Panasonic drill is ______________ the Grip drill. (expensive)
11. The DeWalt drill is the ______________. (expensive)

Adjectives and adverbs

Unterschied zwischen Adjektiven und Adverbien

Adjektive:
Adjektive beschreiben Menschen oder Dinge näher. Wir benutzen Adjektive vor Substantiven und nach dem verb „be“ (Verb „sein“). Zum Beispiel:
Jane is a quick driver. (driver ist ein Substantiv)
Jane is quick. (is ist eine Form von “be”.)

Adverbien:
Adverbien beschreiben Tätigkeiten näher und beziehen sich auf Verben. Normalerweise bilden wir Adverbien, indem wir –ly an das Adjektiv fügen. z.B.:
Jane drives quickly. (drive ist ein Verb.)

Exercise 5. Complete the sentences by using the adjective or adverb in parentheses.

1. My office is small and __________ (quiet/quietly).
2. My boss never shouts. He always speaks ______________ (quiet/quietly) and ______________ (clear/clearly).
3. You can swim in this lake because of the ______________ (clear/clearly) water.
4. Pam isn’t a good worker. She makes a lot of ______________ (careless/carelessly) mistakes.
5. The presenter asked the audience some __________ (easy/easily) questions. The members of the audience answered his questions ______________ (correct/correctly).
6. Greg usually reads his emails ________ (quick/quickly) at work.
7. Anja speaks English ________ (fluent/fluently).
8. Tom adapted to his new work environment ________ (quick/quickly).
9. Mr. Druid’s leg hurts, that’s why he’s walking ________ (slow/slowly).
10. The machines are so loud in the production hall that everyone needs to speak ________ (loud/loudly).

Exercise 6. Read the following sales report. Do you need an adjective or an adverb? Add an -ly ending to the adverbs.

At the beginning of the year our sales stood at $540,000. They gradual____(1) fell throughout January, rose slight____ (2) and then there was a sharp____ (3) drop in March, reaching their low____(4) point at the end of the month at $40,000. From April to June, sales climbed stead____ (5), and levelled off at approximately $290,000 in July. After a slight____ (6) dip in August, there was a dramatic____ (7) increase in September and our sales reached a peak in early October at $310,000. Then they marginal____ (8) decreased, levelled off for a short time in November at $140,000 and plummeted sharp____(9) to the end of the year, ending at $50,000.

Exercise 7. Read this excerpt from a presentation. Do you need an adjective or an adverb? Add an -ly ending to the adverbs.

We have ambitious____ (1) sales goals, so we need to invest significant____ (2) in quality control. I definite____ (3) believe that this is a wise____ (4) investment. In the past we have experienced some terrible____ (5) failures because of low____ (6) quality products. If we don’t put high____ (7) quality products on the market, our sales will fall steep____ (8). We real____ (9) don’t want dramatic____ (10) decreases in our sales!

How can we achieve these high____ (11) aims? There are three important____ (12) steps. First, we need to know the exact____ (13) costs of quality control. Second, our company’s conditions for quality control have to be optimal____ (14). Third, defective____ (15) products may not be sent to the market. These three simple____ (16) steps will definite____ (17) help us succeed! . . .

Good and well
Während good ein Adjektiv ist, ist well ein Adverb.

  Your French is good.
  You speak French well.

Wir benutzen well auch mit Partizipien, z.B. well-educated, well-known, etc.

  The President of the United States is a well-known man.

Exercise 8. Fill in the blanks with good or well.

Example: Greg speaks German well, but his Russian isn’t so good.

1. Meg is a ________ secretary. She takes dictation ________.
2. His report in French was ________, but his English report wasn’t very ________ - written at all.
3. Our new project is coming along _________. We’re making ________ progress.
4. A: Do you know Wendy Higgins? She’s a ________ friend of Jack’s.
   B: No, I don’t know her very ________ at all.
5. A: Did you have a ________ night’s sleep?
B: No, I’m afraid I didn’t sleep very ________ at all.  
6. I didn’t understand the manager’s explanation very ________. It wasn’t a ________ explanation.  
7. We had a _________ time at the company get-together last night. The party went really ________.  
8. Linda speaks Italian ________, but her written Italian isn’t very ________.  

**Exercise 9.** Choose the correct word for the blanks and add ‘well-’.  
Example: *Jack earns a lot of money. He’s very well-paid.*  

balanced informed behaved educated dressed established paid connected done made read  
1. This machine is high quality. It’s ________.  
2. Megan has four university degrees. She’s ______________.  
3. Paul always wears a suit and tie to work. He’s always ______________.  
4. If you want to stay healthy, you need a ______________ diet.  
5. Sam’s report was excellent. It was ______________.  
6. I always like to follow the news. I like to be ______________.  
7. Bayer is an old, successful company. It’s a ______________ firm.  
8. Hank knows a lot of VIPs. He’s very ______________.  
9. Diane reads all the new publications. She’s ______________.  
10. My dog always obeys me. He’s ______________.  

**Adverbien mit zwei Formen**  
Manchmal haben Adverbien zwei Formen, die unterschiedliche Bedeutungen haben, z.B.:  

- close = nahe; closely = genau  
- deep = tief; deeply = zutiefst  
- fair = fair; fairly = ziemlich  
- hard = schwer; hardly = kaum  
- high = hoch; highly = höchst  
- late = spät; lately = vor kurzen, in letzter Zeit  
- most = am meisten; mostly = meistens  
- near = nahe; nearly = beinahe, fast  
- wide = weit (auf); widely = allgemein (bekannt)  

**Exercise 10.** Choose the correct word to fill in the blanks.  
1. When we heard that our CEO had died, we were all ______________ (deep/deeply) shocked.  
2. We’ve ______________ (most/mostly) had problems with our milling machine.  
3. He’s a good manager. He treats his workers ______________ (fair/fairly).  
4. They have a lot to do. They have to work very ______________ (hard/hardly).  
5. We ______________ (hard/hardly) have anything to do at work these days.  
6. I think it’s ______________ (most/mostly) important to make a decision at the meeting.  
7. I have to watch my employees ______________ (close/closely) to make sure they are doing everything correctly.  
8. He’s a ______________ (wide/widely) known managing director.  
9. She’s a ______________ (high/highly) valued employee because she does good work.  
10. He hasn’t come to work on time ______________ (late/lately). He’s been coming ______________ (late/lately) to work.
Answer Key

Exercise 1
1. tidier
2. more generous
3. more important
4. calmer
5. quicker
6. nosier
7. worse
8. better
9. more interesting
10. smarter

Exercise 2
1. as long as Paul
2. fatter than Matt / not as thin as Matt
3. is longer than Paul’s / is not as short as Paul’s
4. not as shy as Matt. / more outgoing than Matt
5. as hardworking as Paul
6. older than Paul / not as young as Paul
7. more handsome than Matt
8. more intelligent than Paul

Exercise 3
1. longest
2. most interesting
3. highest
4. biggest
5. shortest
6. nearest
7. most expensive
8. smallest
9. most famous
10. worst

Exercise 4
1. smallest
2. as large as
3. slowest
4. faster than
5. fastest
6. lightest
7. lighter than
8. heaviest
9. cheapest
10. more expensive than
11. most expensive

Exercise 5
1. quiet
2. quietly … clearly
3. clear
4. careless
5. easy … correctly
6. quickly
7. fluently
8. quickly
9. slowly
10. loudly

Exercise 6
1. -ly
2. -y
3. –
4. –
5. –ily
6. –
7. –
8. –ly
9. –ly

Exercise 7
1. –
2. –ly
3. –ly
4. –
5. –
6. –
7. –
8. –ly
9. –ly
10. –
11. –
12. –
13. –
14. –
15. –
16. –
17 –ly

Exercise 8
1. good … well
2. good … well
3. well … good
4. good … well
5. good … well
6. well … good
7. good … well
8. well … good
Exercise 9
1. well-made
2. well-educated
3. well-dressed
4. well-balanced
5. well-written
6. well-informed
7. well-established
8. well-connected
9. well-read
10. well-behaved

Exercise 10
1. deeply
2. mostly
3. fairly
4. hard
5. hardly
6. most
7. closely
8. widely
9. highly
10. lately … late