

Comparison (Steigerung) of English adjectives

Regular adjectives

	einsilbige Adjektive:	mehrsilbige Adjektive:
Grundform:	cheap	expensive
Komparativ:	cheaper	more expensive
Superlativ:	cheapest	most expensive

- 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 – nois**ier** – nois**iest**
- Mehrsilbige Eigenschaftswörter bilden ihre Steigerungsstufen durch Voranstellen von **more** und **most**.

Irregular adjectives

Grundform:	good	bad/ill	much/many	little (klein/wenig) 1)
Komparativ:	better	worse	more	smaller less
Superlativ:	best	worst	most	smallest least

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

Double forms

positive	far	late	near	old
comparative	farther ¹⁾ further	later latter ²⁾	nearer	older elder ⁴⁾
superlative	farthest furthest	latest last letzte	nearest next ³⁾	oldest eldest Alter

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

Equality (Gleichheit): **as ... as** or **so ... as**

My shirt is as / so cheap as yours.

Inequality (Ungleichheit): **not as/ so ...as**

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 as 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.

- The _____ month of the year is February.
- Mercury is the _____ planet to the sun.
- Drinks cost a lot at this restaurant, and a bottle of old wine is the _____.
- Australia is the _____ continent in the world.
- The Statue of Liberty is the _____ landmark in New York City.
- 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.

	DeWalt drill	Grip drill	Panasonic drill
chuck (<i>Bohrfutter</i>)	½ inch	⅜ inch	½ inch
drill speed	0 – 1,600rpm	0 – 900rpm	0 – 1550rpm
tool weight	6.9 lbs.	4.9 lbs.	5.9 lbs.
price	\$498.00	\$39.95	\$340.00

- The Grip drill has the _____ chuck. (small)
- The DeWalt drill's chuck is _____ the Panasonic drill's. (large)
- The Grip drill has the _____ speed. (slow)
- The Panasonic drill's speed is _____ the Grip drill's. (fast)
- The DeWalt drill's speed is the _____ .(fast)
- The Grip drill is the _____. (light)
- The Panasonic drill is _____ the DeWalt drill. (light)
- The DeWalt drill is the _____. (heavy)
- The Grip drill is the _____. (cheap)
- The Panasonic drill is _____ the Grip drill. (expensive)
- 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.

- My office is small and _____ (quiet/quietly).
- My boss never shouts. He always speaks _____ (quiet/quietly) and _____ (clear/clearly).
- You can swim in this lake because of the _____ (clear/clearly) water.
- Pam isn't a good worker. She makes a lot of _____ (careless/carelessly) mistakes.
- 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

- This machine is high quality. It's _____.
- Megan has four university degrees. She's _____.
- Paul always wears a suit and tie to work. He's always _____.
- If you want to stay healthy, you need a _____ diet.
- Sam's report was excellent. It was _____.
- I always like to follow the news. I like to be _____.
- Bayer is an old, successful company. It's a _____ firm.
- Hank knows a lot of VIPs. He's very _____.
- Diane reads all the new publications. She's _____.
- 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.

- When we heard that our CEO had died, we were all _____ (deep/deeply) shocked.
- We've _____ (most/mostly) had problems with our milling machine.
- He's a good manager. He treats his workers _____ (fair/fairly).
- They have a lot to do. They have to work very _____ (hard/hardly).
- We _____ (hard/hardly) have anything to do at work these days.
- I think it's _____ (most/mostly) important to make a decision at the meeting.
- I have to watch my employees _____ (close/closely) to make sure they are doing everything correctly.
- He's a _____ (wide/widely) known managing director.
- She's a _____ (high/highly) valued employee because she does good work.
- 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