

## Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

### Introduction

1) An adverb is a word or set of words that modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Usually adverbs modify verbs, telling us how, how often, when, or where something was done.

*We walked **really slowly**.*

2) Most adverbs can show degree of quality or quantity by forming two degrees of comparison: the comparative degree and the superlative degree. These degrees are formed from the positive degree, which is the usual form of adverbs.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
<i>She eats slowly.</i>	<i>She eats <b>more slowly than</b> we do.</i>	<i>She eats <b>the most slowly of</b> us all.</i>

The comparative form is used for comparing two actions or states, while the superlative is used for comparing one action or state with all the others in the same category.

*He runs **faster than** Jack does. But we need to check for sure who runs **the fastest**.*

There are three ways in which the comparatives and the superlatives are formed, depending on the spelling of the base adverbs.

If an adverb ends in *-ly*, add *more* to make the comparative, and *the most* to make the superlative.

*happily – more happily – the most happily*

If an adverb has the same form as an adjective, follow the same rules when you form the comparative or superlative degree of adjectives, i.e. by adding the endings *-er* or *-est*. If an adverb ends in *-y*, then you change the *-y* to *-i* before adding *-er* or *-est*. If an adverb has one syllable and ends in *-e*, simply add *-r* or *-st*.

*late – later – the latest*

Some adverbs do not follow any of the rules explained earlier. They are irregular. Here are the most common irregular adverbs.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
<i>well</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>the best</i>
<i>badly</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>the worst</i>
<i>much</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>the most</i>
<i>little</i>	<i>less</i>	<i>the least</i>
<i>far</i>	<i>farther/further</i>	<i>the farthest/the furthest</i>

Note that it is impossible to have comparatives or superlatives of certain adverbs, especially those of time (e.g. *daily, yesterday, then*), place (e.g. *there, up, down*), and degree (e.g. *very, just, too*).

### Short Story Dialogue

– *I haven't thought that Paul can play basketball **that well!***

– *Actually, he was in the basketball club at school, so back **then** he played **even better**.*

**Honestly**, I think he played **the best** of any teammates.

– *Yeah? I didn't know that.*

– *Yeah, but after the knee injury he started to play **less and less**. **Sadly**, that was inevitable.*

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## Independent Practice - Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

### 1) Form the comparatives and the superlatives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
very		
well		
long		
loudly		
badly		

### 2) Underline the mistakes in the following sentences. Correct them.

- a. Susan came to work very lately yesterday.
- b. You should speak more quitlier at the library!
- c. We ran quite farly that day.
- d. Tim sings the bester. Everyone loves his singing.
- e. They drive more careful after the accident.

## Independent Practice: Answers - Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

### 1) Form the comparatives and the superlatives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
very	–	–
well	better	the best
long	longer	the longest
loudly	more loudly	the most loudly
badly	worse	the worst

### 2) Underline the mistakes in the following sentences. Correct them.

- Susan came to work very lately **late** yesterday.
- You should speak more quitlier **quietly** at the library!
- We ran quite farly **far** that day.
- Tim sings the bester **best**. Everyone loves his singing.
- They drive more careful **carefully** after the accident.