

**General**

Comparisons are when you look at similarities or differences between things. A comparison between two things is called a comparative; between many things, it's called a superlative.

**Form**

For short words, or -y ending words, add '-(e)r' or 'the -est'

For long words, add 'more' or 'the most'

**Notes**

Short words are words with only one syllable, or sound (eg big, small, high). Long words have more than one syllable (eg modern, difficult).

-y ending words have 'y' at the end (eg heavy, friendly) The spelling changes with these; 'y' changes to 'i' (eg heavy/heavier)

If you need to, use 'than' with comparatives, and 'in' with superlatives.

There are a few exceptions to the rules on form with adjectives; (eg bad/worse/the worst; good/better/best; far/further/furthest) With adverbs, the main exception is good/well (eg He worked well with people).

Mostly, it is not possible to make comparisons with short adverbs, as they often sound wrong, so avoid them. However, you can with 'y' words, using 'more' and 'most'.

Adverbs are used to describe verbs, and also to describe adjectives.

**Examples**

Look at some examples to see how these rules work.

**Form**

	Comparing two (comparatives)	Comparing many (superlatives)
<b>Short/-y ending words</b>  <u>Adjectives</u> nice tall large easy	nicer taller larger (than) easier	the nicest the tallest (in) the largest the easiest
<u>Adverbs</u> nicely etc	- (not possible!)	- (not possible!)
<b>Long words</b>  <u>Adjectives</u> careful economic	more careful more economic “	the most careful the most economic “
<u>Adverbs</u> ! easily carefully economically	more easily more carefully more economically	the most easily the most carefully the most economically

**Examples**

Adjectives

1. The retail sector is now **larger than** the manufacturing one.
2. Saving money is difficult. It is **easier** to spend it.
3. It makes **more economic sense** to lower trade barriers than to tax imports.
4. The **largest industry in** the country is retail.
5. Cutting costs was **the most economic solution**.

Adverbs

1. Because of the risks, they worked **more carefully** than usual.
2. America is maybe **the most economically powerful country in** the world.