

Name _____

Date _____

Big, Bigger, Biggest - Comparatives

“I can run faster than you!”

“They have the biggest house on the block.”

“That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard.”

What do all these sentences have in common? They all contain **comparisons**.

When we describe something, we use a word called an **adjective**. An adjective describes a **noun**, for example: “a fast runner.” When we use an adjective to compare two things we usually add **-er** to the end of the adjective, like we did in the example: “I can run **faster** than you!” Faster is a comparative adjective. Here are some more comparative adjectives: bigger; longer; older; faster; lighter.

When we compare more than two things we usually add **-est** to the end of the adjective, like we did in the example: “They have the **biggest** house on the block.” In other words, my house might be big, and yours might be bigger but theirs is the biggest! Biggest is a superlative adjective. Here are some more superlative adjectives: longest; oldest; fastest; lightest.

If the adjective ends in a ‘y’ like ‘silly’, or ‘funny’ all you have to do is change the ‘y’ into an ‘i’ before you add the **-er** or **-est**. Like this: silly, sillier, silliest; funny, funnier, funniest. Oh yes, and short words, like big, double up on the last letter:

Sometimes the adjective is too long to add **-er** or **-est**. Try saying ridiculouser or ridiculousest! So we use **more** or **most** instead: “That answer was **more ridiculous** than the last.” “That is the **most ridiculous** thing I have ever heard.”

Of course, in English there are always exceptions to the rule. Here are the two most important ones to remember: Instead of good, gooder, goodest we say **good, better, best**, and instead of bad, badder, baddest, we say **bad, worse, worst**.

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Big, Bigger, Biggest - Comparatives Questions

A: Can you remember all the rules?

In the first column is a list of adjectives. Can you fill in the comparative and superlative adjectives in the next two columns? The first three were done for you in the reading. Beware of the long adjectives and the exceptions!

	Comparative	Superlative
Fast		
Ridiculous		
Funny		
Dark		
Small		
Few		
High		
Bad		
Fat		
Complicated		
Tasty		
Soft		

B: Can you fix the following sentences?

Fill in the correct adjective in place of the one in the brackets.

1. Mary's cake was (sweet) than John's but Bill's was the (sweet).
2. Angela thought her dress was (pretty) than her friend's dress.
3. Mount Everest is the (high) mountain in the world.
4. I think that test was (difficult) than the last one we did.
5. She got a prize for being the (good) singer in the contest.

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Big, Bigger, Biggest - Comparatives Answers

Activity A

	Comparative	Superlative
Fast	faster	fastest
Ridiculous	more ridiculous	most ridiculous
Funny	funnier	funniest
Dark	darker	darkest
Small	smaller	smallest
Few	fewer	fewest
High	higher	highest
Bad	worse	worst
Fat	fatter	fattest
Complicated	more complicated	most complicated
Tasty	tastier	tastiest
Soft	softer	softest

Activity B

- Mary's cake was sweeter than John's was but Bill's was the sweetest.
- Angela thought her dress was prettier than her friend's dress.
- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
- I think that test was more difficult than the last one we did.
- She got a prize for being the best singer in the contest.