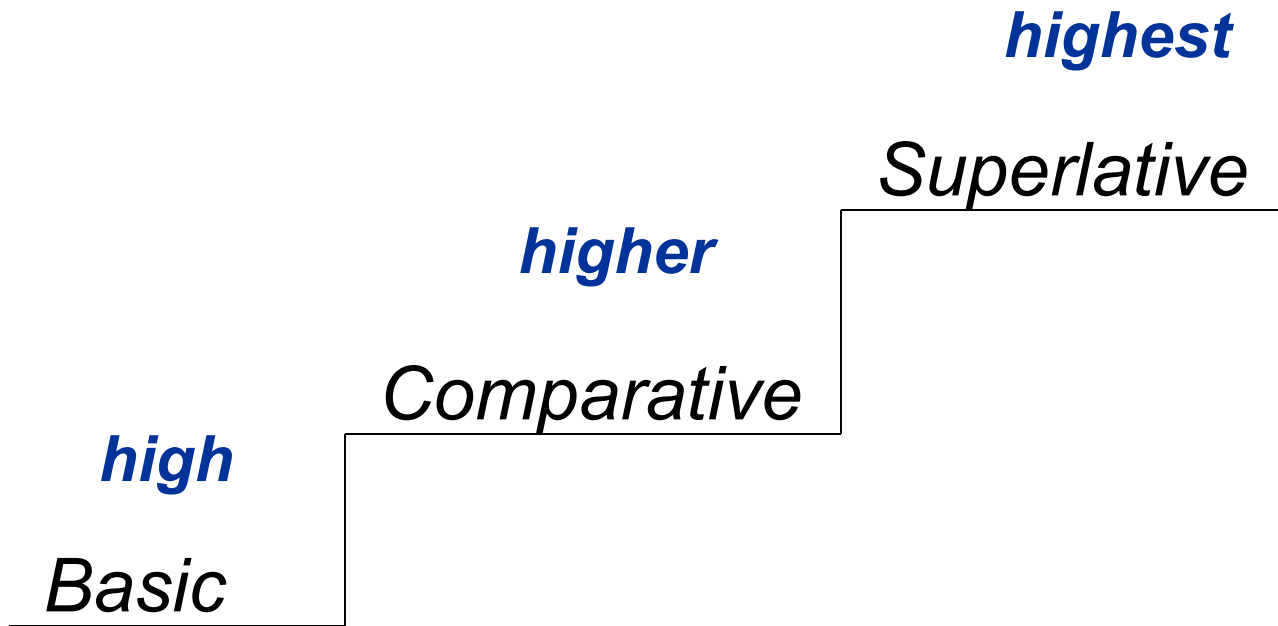


# **Adjectives in English**

# Degrees of Comparison

There are three degrees:



# One-syllable Adjectives

Usually, the ending **er/est** is simply added to the positive form of the adjective. For example:

fast - faster      strong - stronger  
tall - tallest      young - youngest

When an adjective ends in a silent **e**, the silent **e** is dropped before the ending **er/est** is added.

e.g.: brave - braver - bravest  
close - closer - closest  
late - later - latest

When an adjective ends in **y** preceded by a consonant, the **y** is changed to **i** before the ending **er/est** is added.

e.g.: **dry - drier-driest; easy - easier-easiest**

When an adjective ends in a CVC and the last consonant is other than **w, x** or **y** or **a double vowel** - we double the final consonant before adding **er/est** is added.

e.g.: **big - bigger-biggest (hot - hotter sad - saddest**

**but:**

e.g.: **loud - louder; neat - neater; soon - sooner**

# Two and more syllable adjectives

Adjectives of 2 or more syllables (unless it ends with *r* or *y*), we make superior by using:  
***the most / the least*** adjective noun.

This book is ***the most / the least*** interesting  
book I have ever read.

# Two and more syllable adjectives

Adjectives of 2 or more syllables (unless it ends with *r* or *y*), we compare by using:

noun verb ***more / less*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***than*** noun.

This book is ***more interesting than*** that book.

My ad is ***less convincing than*** your ad.

# Irregular Forms of Comparison

good	<b>better than</b>	<i>the best</i>
bad	<b>worse than</b>	<i>the worst</i>
far	<b>farther / further than</b>	<i>the farthest / furthest</i>
little	<b>less than</b>	<i>the least</i>
few	<b>fewer than</b>	<i>the fewest</i>
many/much	<b>more than</b>	<i>the most</i>

# Adjective Order



# Fact Adjectives

## Adjective order

If we have more than one adjective of fact they go in the following order:

Size	Age	Shape	Color	Origin	Material	purpose
Big small tall	Old antique ancient new	Round square oval	red auburn blond black	French Spanish Chinese	wooden silver metallic	riding planting fishing

# Opinion + Fact Adjectives

opinion	Facts							NOUN
	Size/ length	shape	how old?	Colour/ pattern	origin	made of ?	Purpose/ use	
	large			brown				dog
	tall		young		Thai			man
		round				marble	dining	table
delicious						vegetable		soup
delicious	hot (general)					vegetable		soup

# Suffixation

-ful	having...	<i>useful</i>
	giving...	<i>helpful</i>
-less	without	<i>fearless</i>
-ly	having the qualities of	<i>cowardly</i>
-like	“	<i>childlike</i>
-y	like...	<i>creamy</i>
	covered with...	<i>hairy</i>
-ish	belonging to	<i>Turkish</i>
	having the character	<i>foolish</i>
-ian	in the tradition of	<i>Darwinian</i>

## Other adjective suffixes:

-able/-ible = worthy/able: *readable/edible*

-ish = somewhat *youngish*

-ed = having *balconied*

# Adjective suffixes meaning “having the characteristics of.../ peculiar to.../ full of ....”

-al	<i>criminal</i>
(also –ial	<i>editorial</i>
and –ical	<i>musical</i>
-ic	<i>heroic</i>
-ive	<i>attractive</i>
(also – ative	<i>affirmative</i>
and -itive	<i>sensitive</i>
-ous	<i>virtuous</i>
(also –eous	<i>courteous</i>
and –ious	<i>vivacious</i>

# Suffixation

- NOTE! -ic vs. -ical
- (difference in meaning)

an **economic** miracle ( in the economy)  
the car is **economical** to run ( money-saving)

a **historic** building (with a history)  
**historical** research (pertaining to history)

# Adjectives as Nouns = Substantivized Adjectives

**Fully substantivized – have all  
characteristics of a noun**

*a native - the natives, a Russian - the  
Russians, a German - the Germans.*

**Partially substantivized – are used as  
nouns only to show a group, many**  
*the rich, the unemployed, the good, the  
evil, the beautiful, the English.*