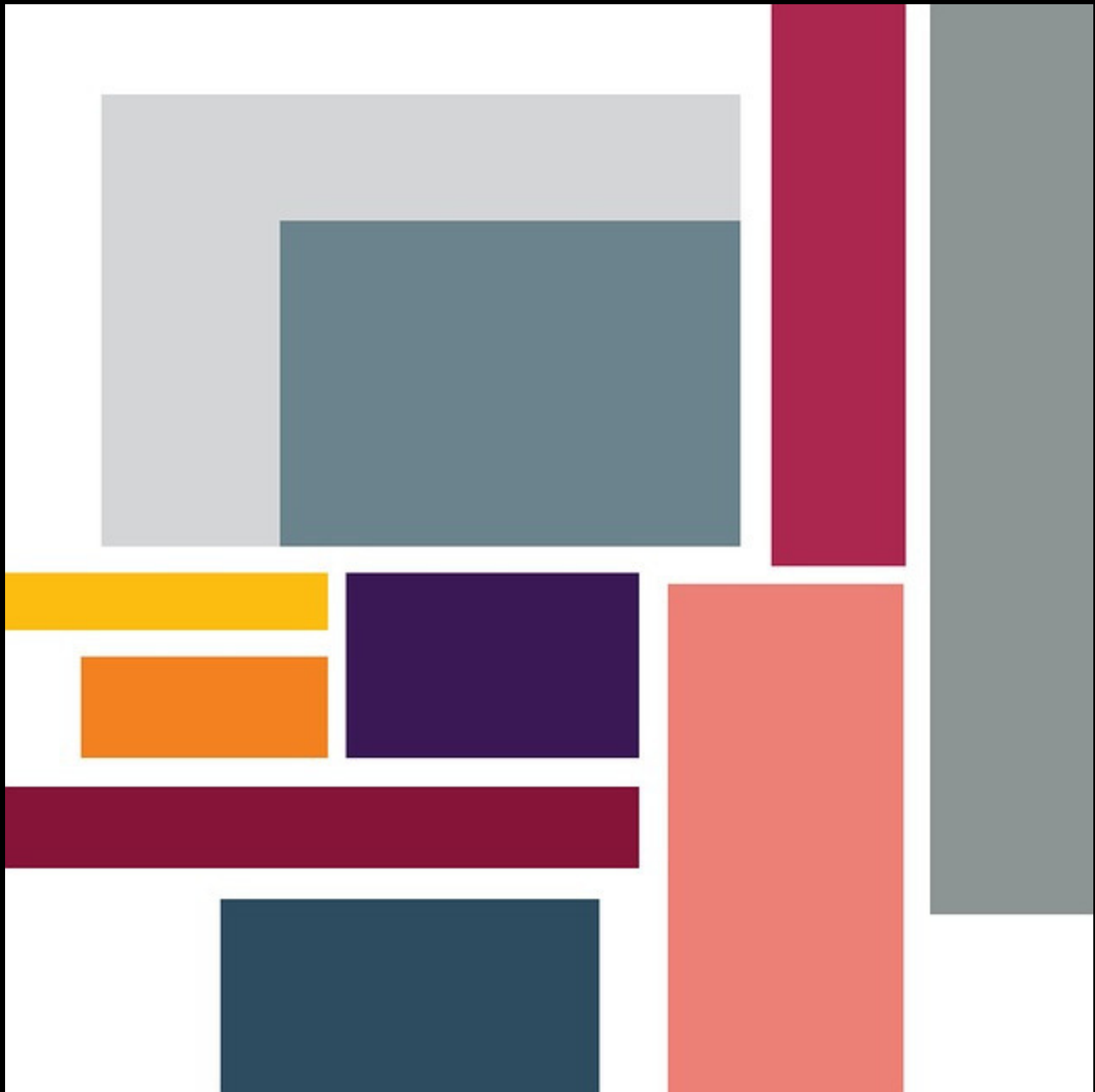


Comparatives vs. Superlatives



Comparatives vs. Superlatives

Lesson & Exercises

Comparative = *-er* form of adjective or *more + adjective*. Used to compare **two** things.

Examples: smaller, larger, faster, brighter, more interesting, more exciting

Incorrect: Between the rhino and the hippo, the rhino is the **heavier** creature, while the hippo is the **most** ferocious.

Correct: Between the rhino and the hippo, the rhino is the **heavier** creature, while the hippo is the **more** ferocious.

Superlative = *-est* form of adjective or *most + adjective*. Used to compare **three or more** things.

Examples: smallest, largest, fastest, brightest, most interesting, most exciting

Incorrect: The executive interviewed five candidates for the position and ultimately decided that Sergei was the **more** qualified.

Correct: The executive interviewed five candidates for the position and ultimately decided that Sergei was the **most** qualified.

Forming Comparatives and Superlatives

As indicated in the examples above, comparative and superlative forms can be formed in two ways: *-er/-est*, and *more/most + adjective*.

- *-er* and *-est*: 1-syllable adjectives
2-syllable adjectives ending in *-y* or *-ow*
- *more* and *most*: all other adjectives*

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Clear	Clearer	Clearest
Funny	Funnier	Funniest
Narrow	Narrower	Narrowest
Interesting	More interesting	Most interesting

*Note that there are occasional exceptions that can take either *-er/-est* or *more/most*. For example, *most sincere* and *sincerest* are both considered acceptable.

Comparative and Superlative Adverbs: Quicker...Or More Quickly?

Some adverbs also have a comparative form.

- When the adverb form is identical to the adjective (rare), add *-er*.
- When the adverb is formed by adding *-ly*, use *more/most + adverb*.

Adjective	Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
Fast	Fast	Faster	Fastest
Quick	Quickly	More quickly	Most quickly
Interesting	Interestingly	More interesting	Most interesting

Incorrect: Sweden is tilting toward a cashless future **quicker** than almost any other country; its residents, accustomed to the convenience of paying by app and credit card, rarely use cash.

Because *quickly* is the adverb form of *quick*, *more + adverb* must be used.

Correct: Sweden is tilting toward a cashless future **more quickly** than almost any other country; its residents, accustomed to the convenience of paying by app and credit card, rarely use cash.

Other adjectives that have identical adverb forms include the following:

- Close
- Early
- Far
- Hard
- High
- Late
- Likely
- Low
- Near
- Right
- Wrong