

Lesson 27: Comparing with Adjectives

LEARN

- Adjectives can compare people, places, and things. Adjectives that compare tell how things are different from each other.

Lions are **stronger** than leopards.
Lions are the **strongest** big cat.

- Add **-er** to most adjectives to compare two people, places, or things.

strong + er = **stronger**

- Add **-est** to most adjectives to compare more than two people, places, or things.

strong + est = **strongest**

- Sometimes the spelling of an adjective changes when **-er** or **-est** is added.

- If an adjective ends in **e**, drop the **e** and add **-er** or **-est**.

large + er = **larger**

large + est = **largest**

- If an adjective ends in a consonant and **y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **-er** or **-est**.

hungry + er = **hungrier**

hungry + est = **hungriest**

- If an adjective ends in one vowel followed by a consonant, double the consonant and add **-er** or **-est**.

big + er = **bigger**

big + est = **biggest**



PRACTICE

A In Column A add **-er** to each adjective. In Column B add **-est** to each adjective. Remember to make the necessary spelling changes before adding **-er** and **-est**.

	A		B
1. cold	<u> colder </u>	6. warm	<u> warmest </u>
2. wild	<u> wilder </u>	7. simple	<u> simplest </u>
3. scarce	<u> scarcer </u>	8. late	<u> latest </u>
4. tiny	<u> tinier </u>	9. shady	<u> shadiest </u>
5. hot	<u> hotter </u>	10. thin	<u> thinnest </u>

B Write the form of the adjective in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

1. Lions are the **largest** members of the cat family. (large)
2. Lions are **stronger** than humans. (strong)
3. They can drag **heavier** weights than people can. (heavy)
4. They are **mightier** than any other cat. (mighty)
5. Lions are not the **fastest** of the big cats. (fast)
6. They are usually **slower** than their prey. (slow)
7. A zebra, for example, is **swifter** than a lion. (swift)
8. Vision is the **sharpest** of a lion's five senses. (sharp)
9. A lion can see in **dimmer** light than you can. (dim)
10. A lion's night vision is **keener** than its prey's night vision. (keen)
11. Hunting at night is **easier** than hunting during the day. (easy)
12. A female lion is **smaller** than a male lion. (small)
13. Females are **fiercer** hunters than males. (fierce)
14. Of all the cats, lions have the **loudest** roar. (loud)
15. Many people think that lions are the **grandest** animals of all. (grand)



C Lena wrote this report about tigers. She made seven mistakes when using and spelling adjectives that compare. Use the proofreading marks in the box to correct the errors.

Remember
Add *-er* to an adjective to compare two people, places, or things. Add *-est* to compare more than two.

Tigers are an endangered animal. Three kinds of tigers have become extinct. Six other kinds survive. Of these six groups, the ^{largest} ~~larger~~ are the Siberian tigers.

About 400 Siberian tigers are found in Asia. A ^{bigger} ~~biger~~ population lives in eastern Russia. These big cats survive in some of the ^{iciest} ~~icest~~ forests on Earth.

Most Bengal tigers live in India, but a ^{smaller} ~~smallest~~ population is found in Nepal. Bengal tigers tend to live in the ^{hottest} ~~hotest~~ and wettest regions of India.

Indochinese tigers live mainly in the jungles of Thailand. There may be ^{fewer} ~~fewver~~ than 1500 left.

Sumatran tigers are a fourth type of tiger. About 400 of them live on the island of Sumatra. Of all the types, these have the ^{darkest} ~~darker~~ coats.

Finally, there are the Malaysian tiger and the South China tiger, the rarest kind. None may be left in China.

Proofreading Marks

- ^ Add
- ⊙ Period
- ~ Take out
- ≡ Capital letter
- / Small letter



Did you correct seven adjectives that compare?





D Follow the directions below to write groups of three sentences. In your first sentence use the adjective in parentheses. In your second sentence use the adjective with *-er*. In your third sentence use the adjective with *-est*. The first one is done for you.
Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.

1. Use the following information about weight to compare these three big cats. (heavy)

Cheetah 160 pounds **Lion** 400 pounds **Siberian tiger** 700 pounds

A cheetah is heavy.

A lion is heavier than a cheetah.

The Siberian tiger is the heaviest of the three cats.

2. Use the following information about top speeds to compare these three cats. (fast)

Leopard 36 mph **Lion** 50 mph **Cheetah** 70 mph

A leopard is fast.

A lion is faster than a leopard.

The cheetah is the fastest of the three cats.

3. Use the following information about body length (including the tail) to compare these three big cats. (long)

Leopard 6 feet **Cheetah** 7 feet **Lion** 9 feet

A leopard is long.

A cheetah is longer than a leopard.

The lion is the longest of the three cats.

Proofreading Checklist

- Did you use an adjective with *-er* to compare two of the big cats?
- Did you use an adjective with *-est* to compare the three big cats?