**SUBJECT : *COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES***

* We **use** the **comparative** form …

to make comparisons: *This course is* ***better than*** *the last one.*

* To **form** comparative adjectives, use **-*er* or *more .***

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|  **Short adjectives (one syllable or two syllables ending in -*y*)**  | **Long adjectives (two syllables or more)**  |
| adjective + -*er* *old* → *older, easy* → *easier, big* → *bigger*  | *more / less* + adjective *efficient* → *more efficient* / *less efficient*  |

* Some adjectives have two possible comparative forms: *more quiet / quieter, more gentle / gentler*
* Some adjectives are irregular: *good* → *better, bad* → *worse, far* → *further*
* The spelling sometimes changes when we add -*er*: *big* → *bigger, silly* → *sillier*
* Use the preposition ***than***to link the two objects, people or situations that you are comparing:

 *My memory is less reliable* ***than*** *it used to be.*

* **Use** the **superlative** form to show that one thing or person in a group has got more or less of a quality than all the others in the same group: *Zurich is Switzerland’s* ***largest*** *city.* (= no other city in Switzerland is larger.)

 **Common expressions**

Superlative adjectives are often used with …

* one / some of the … : ***one of the*** *greenest cities,* ***some of the*** *cleanest water*
* the second / third etc. … in … : ***the third*** *lowest* ***in*** *Europe*
* the most … ever … : *the most exciting city you’ll* ***ever*** *visit*
* To **form** superlative adjectives, use *-est* or *most / least.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Short adjectives (one syllable or two syllables ending in -y)** | **Long adjectives (two syllables or more)** |
| adjective 1 *-est**large → largest, green → greenest* *big → biggest, easy → easiest**pretty → prettiest* | *most / least* 1 adjective*expensive → most expensive, exciting → most exciting,polluted → least polluted* |

* Some adjectives have two possible superlative forms: *most polite / politest, most gentle / gentlest*
* Some adjectives are irregular: *good* → *best, bad* → *worst, far* → *furthest*
* Use **as … as …**to compare two things and say that they are similar:

*It’s* ***as*** *fast* ***as*** *a normal sports car*. (5 Sports cars are fast. This car is equally fast.)

* Use ***just* with *as … as …***to emphasise the similarity:

*It drives* ***just as*** *well* ***as*** *a normal sports car.*

* Use ***not as … as …***to compare two things and say that they are different, and that one possesses less of a certain quality and ability than the other:

*It* ***isn’t as*** *expensive to run* ***as*** *a traditional petrol-fuelled car*. (5 It’s cheaper to run than a traditional petrol-fuelled car.)

* Also use ***not as … as…***to explain that an object, person or situation has less of a quality than you imagined:

*It* ***isn’t as*** *difficult* ***as*** *we’d expected.*

 **Common expressions**

*As … as …* is used in a lot of common fixed expressions:*as soon as possible, as quickly as I can, as good as new, as good as gold, as old as the hills*