



learning target

Aim of this topic is to express that something is better / faster / more beautiful than something else and to express that something is the best / fastest / most beautiful ...

German	English
Tom ist schneller als Nelson. Cathy ist hübscher als ihre Freundin. Dieses Hotel ist am teuersten .	Tom is faster than Nelson. Cathy is more beautiful than her friend. This hotel is most expensive .

rules

comparison of regular adjectives

positive	comparative	superlative
adjective	adjective + er	(am) + adjective + st

examples:

German			English		
positive	comparative	superlative	positive	comparative	superlative
schnell	schneller	am schnell sten	fast	faster	fastest
neu	neuer	am neu sten	new	newer	newest
langsam	langsamer	am langsam sten	slow	slower	slowest

1.) Adjectives which end with "t", "d", "s", "ss", "ß", "x" or "z" require an additional "e" before the "st" in the superlative degree.

German			English		
positive	comparative	superlative	positive	comparative	superlative
leicht	leichter	am leicht esten	easy	easier	esiest
verrückt	verrückter	am verrückt esten	crazy	crazier	craziest
nett	netter	am nett esten	nice	nicer	nicest



2.) There is no "more or "most" for multi-syllable adjectives like in English.

German			English		
positive	comparative	superlative	positive	comparative	superlative
bunt	bunter	am buntesten	colourful	more colourful	most colourful
bequem	bequemer	am bequemsten	comfortable	more comfortable	most comfortable
langweilig	langweiliger	am langweiligsten	boring	more boring	most boring

comparison of irregular adjectives

There are a few adjectives which don't follow any rule. They have to be learnt by heart.

German			English		
positive	comparative	superlative	positive	comparative	superlative
bald	eher	am ehesten	soon	sooner	soonest
gern	lieber	am liebsten	gladly	more gladly	most gladly
groß	größer	am größten	big	bigger	biggest
gut	besser	am besten	good	better	best
hoch	höher	am höchsten	high	higher	highest
nah	näher	am nächsten	near	nearer	nearest
viel	mehr	am meisten	much	more	most

Besides the irregular adjectives there are adjectives which change not the whole word but a vowel. Almost all **one-syllable** adjectives which contain an "a", "o" or "u" change the "umlaut".

German			English		
positive	comparative	superlative	positive	comparative	superlative
alt	älter	am ältesten	old	older	oldest
arm	ärmer	am ärmsten	poor	poorer	poorest
dumm	dümm	am dümmsten	stupid	dumber	dumbest
hart	härter	am härtesten	hard	harder	hardest
jung	jünger	am jüngsten	young	younger	youngest
kalt	kälter	am kältesten	cold	colder	coldest
klug	klüger	am klügsten	clever	more clever	most clever
kurz	kürzer	am kürzesten	short	shorter	shortest
lang	länger	am längsten	longer	longer	longest
oft	öfter	am öftesten	often	more often	most often
stark	stärker	am stärksten	strong	stronger	strongest
warm	wärmer	am wärmsten	warm	warmer	warmest



adjective endings

For the adjectives in the comparative degree and the superlative degree you have to use the same rules which you learnt already for the simple adjectives. Just add the ending after the "er" or "st".

A hint

Such an ending you find already in all superlative examples above: am meisten**en**, am schnell**sten** ...

That means if you want to use the superlative in a sentence where you don't use "am" then cancel "en" and add the correct ending for this case.

examples:

- Sie ist die klügste Studentin. (She is the most clever student.)
- Sie ist am klügsten. (She is most clever.)

How do you compare?

Finally, I want you to give the little words you need to compare two things.

	German	English
equality	... so ... wie as ... as ...
inequality	... als than ...

examples for inequality:

- Sie ist stärker **als** er. (She is stronger than him.)
- Sie ist älter **als** er. (She is older than him.)

examples for equality:

- Sie ist **so** stark **wie** er. (She is as strong as him.)
- Sie ist **so** alt **wie** er. (She is as old as him.)