



The three biggest cities in Switzerland are Geneva, Zurich and Basel. Geneva is probably more famous than Zurich and Basel because the United Nations is based here. Basel is smaller than Geneva and Zurich, but it's famous for its museums and it has the oldest university in Switzerland. Zurich is the biggest city in Switzerland but it's less polluted than many other modern cities. It's also easier to travel round because public transport is fast.

Presentation

- Use the comparative form to compare things. We often use it with *than*: *Geneva is **more famous than** Zurich and Basel.*
- Use the superlative form to compare one thing with others in a group: *Zurich is **the biggest city in** Switzerland.* (= bigger than all the other cities in Switzerland)

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	biggest
small	smaller	smallest
old	older	oldest
new	newer	newest
fast	faster	fastest
easy	easier	easiest
famous	more famous	most famous
modern	more modern	most modern
good	better	best

Add *-er* or *-est* to one-syllable adjectives: *small* → *smaller/smallest*

With most adjectives of two syllables or more, use *more/most*: *famous* → *more/most famous*

With some two-syllable adjectives (often ending in *-y*, *-le*, *-ow*, *-er*), add *-er/-est*: *easy* → *easier/easiest*

Spelling rules

- Add *-r/-st* with adjectives ending in *-e*: *nice* → *nicer/nicest*
- For adjectives ending in *-y*, change *-y* to *-i*: *easy* → *easier/easiest*
- For one-syllable adjectives ending in consonant–vowel–consonant, double the final consonant: *big* → *bigger/biggest*. But don't double the *w*, *x* or *y*: *slow* → *slower/slowest*

Irregular adjectives

There are three common irregular adjectives:

good → *better/best*

bad → *worse/worst*

far → *further/furthest* or *farther/farthest*

less/least

To make a negative comparison, use *less/least* + adjective: *polluted* → *less polluted / least polluted*

Exercises

1 Complete the texts with the comparative form of the adjectives.



I hate my job! I've worked here for ten years. Now, my hours are ¹ (long) but my salary isn't ² (good). I'm only 40 years old but I look ³ (old).



I love my new life! I can relax so I'm ⁴ (happy). My hours are ⁵ (short) and I work in the countryside so it's ⁶ (health).

2 Write sentences with your opinion. Use a comparative form.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 pizza / pasta (nice) | I think pizza is nicer than pasta. |
| 2 work / studying (stressful) | I think |
| 3 playing music / playing sport (relaxing) | I think |
| 4 travelling by train / travelling by car (fast) | I think |
| 5 learning English / learning Maths (easy) | I think |

3 Complete the text with the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.



Tierra del Fuego is one of the ¹ most beautiful (beautiful) places on earth. The ² (high) mountain is 2,448m and the region has the ³ (amazing) views. The ⁴ (easy) way to Tierra del Fuego is from Argentina. Ushuaia is the capital city of Tierra del Fuego and it is the ⁵ (popular) destination with tourists. For a quieter place, go to Puerta Toro. It's one of the ⁶ (small) towns in South America, with a population of about 50 people.

4 Complete the conversations with a comparative or superlative form.

Conversation 1

A: So what did you think of Prague?

B: Amazing. It's ¹ *more beautiful / most beautiful* than lots of other European cities. And I think the food is ² *better / best* than in Paris!

Conversation 2

C: What's ³ *better / the best* way to get to London?

D: The train, because it's ⁴ *faster / fastest* than going by car or bus.

Conversation 3

E: What was your hotel like?

F: Terrible! It was probably ⁵ *noisier / the noisiest* hotel in the city because it was on the ⁶ *busier / the busiest* street. And the second night was ⁷ *worse / the worst* than the first! There was a party in the room next to mine so I couldn't sleep.