

Comparatives and Superlatives

Guided Discussion

Write examples on the board or piece of paper, such as:

bigger, biggest, funnier, funniest, longer, longest

Say this: "When you're comparing words you often have to change the describing word. When you're talking about two things, you often have to add an *-er*, and when you're talking about three or more things, you often have to add an *-est*."

Give examples as needed: "For example, if you compare how fast a rabbit and a turtle are, you use the words *faster* or *slower*."

Ask: "What's taller: a giraffe or a horse? Can you tell me that using the word, "taller?" Ask additional questions, as needed, to enhance understanding.

Add, if possible: "Some words that compare don't use *-er* and *-est*. These words are called *irregulars*. For example, you don't say that something is *gooder* or *badder* than something else. You say something is *better* or *worse* than something else.

Add, if possible: "Longer adjectives don't use *-er* and *-est*. They use the words *more* and *most*. For example, you don't say that one flower is *beutifuller* than another. You say it's *more beautiful*. You don't say that the sun is the *importantest* star to Earth. You say it's the *most important*."

Guided Practice Ideas

Quick Drill

Use adjectives at the student's level for the following quick drill activities. Require use of comparative and superlative forms. Provide cues as needed so that students can respond with near 100% accuracy.

Repetition...Instruct students to repeat approximately ten to fifteen comparatives and superlatives at student's level.

Tell me... Use comparisons familiar to student. For example,
Tell me what's bigger: a car or a bike. *A car is bigger than a bike.*
Tell me what's quieter: a library or a gym. *A library is quieter than a gym.*
Tell me what's colder: Alaska or Florida. *Alaska is colder than Florida.*
Tell me what's drier: a desert or a jungle. *A desert is drier than a jungle.*
Tell me what's more expensive: a house or a candy bar. *A house is more expensive than a candy bar.*
Tell me what's more delicious: liver or spaghetti. *Spaghetti is more delicious than liver.*

Superlatives:

Tell me who's the tallest person in your family. *My cousin Joe is the tallest person in my family*
Tell me what the biggest planet is. *Jupiter is the biggest planet.*
Tell me who your best friend is. *Priscilla is my best friend.*
Tell me the most nutritious food that you can think of. *Broccoli is the most nutritious food that I can think of.*