# THE COMPARATIVE AND THE SUPERLATIVE

### COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVES

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (*larger, smaller, faster, higher*). They are used in sentences where two nouns are compared, in this pattern:

**Noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + *than* + noun (object).**

The second item of comparison can be omitted if it is clear from the context (final example below).

##### EXAMPLES

* My house is **larger** than hers.
* This box is **smaller** than the one I lost.
* Your dog runs **faster** than Jim's dog.
* The rock flew **higher** than the roof.
* Jim and Jack are both my friends, but I like Jack **better**. ("than Jim" is understood)

### SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (*the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest*). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects.

**Noun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + noun (object).**

The group that is being compared with can be omitted if it is clear from the context (final example below).

##### EXAMPLES

* My house is the **largest** one in our neighborhood.
* This is the **smallest** box I've ever seen.
* Your dog ran the **fastest** of any dog in the race.
* We all threw our rocks at the same time. My rock flew the **highest**. ("of all the rocks" is understood)

### FORMING REGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

Forming comparatives and superlatives is easy. The form depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective.

###### ONE SYLLABLE ADJECTIVES

Add *-er* for the comparative and *-est* for the superlative. If the adjective has a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| tall | taller | tallest |
| fat | fatter | fattest |
| big | bigger | biggest |
| sad | sadder | saddest |

###### TWO SYLLABLES

Adjectives with two syllables can form the comparative either by adding *-er* or by preceeding the adjective with *more*. These adjectives form the superlative either by adding *-est* or by preceeding the adjective with *most*. In many cases, both forms are used, although one usage will be more common than the other. If you are not sure whether a two-syllable adjective can take a comparative or superlative ending, play it safe and use *more* and *most* instead. For adjectives ending in *y*, change the y to an i before adding the ending.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| happy | happier | happiest |
| simple | simpler | simplest |
| busy | busier | busiest |
| tilted | more tilted | most tilted |
| tangled | more tangled | most tangled |

###### THREE OR MORE SYLLABLES

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting *more* in front of the adjective, and the superlative by putting *most* in front.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| important | more important | most important |
| expensive | more expensive | most expensive |

### IRREGULAR COMPARATIVES AND SUPERLATIVES

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Adjective** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| good | better | best |
| bad | worse | worst |
| little | less | least |
| much | more | most |
| far | further / farther | furthest / farthest |

##### EXAMPLES

* Today is the **worst** day I've had in a long time.
* You play tennis **better** than I do.
* This is the **least** expensive sweater in the store.
* This sweater is **less** expensive than that one.
* I ran pretty far yesterday, but I ran even **farther** today.

**LET’S PRACTICE**

1 -

**GOODBYE THINGS, HELLO MINIMALISM: 1CAN LIVING WITH LESS MAKE YOU HAPPIER?**

Fumio Sasaki owns a roll-up mattress, three shirts and four pairs of socks. After deciding to scorn possessions, he began feeling happier. He explains why.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. I’m 35 years old, male, single, never been married. I work as an editor at a publishing company. I recently moved from the Nakameguro neighbourhood in Tokyo, where I lived for a decade, to a neighbourhood called Fudomae in a different part of town. 2The rent is cheaper, but the move pretty much wiped out my savings.

Some of you may think that I’m a loser: an unmarried adult with not much money. The old me would have been way too embarrassed to admit all this. I was filled with useless pride. But I honestly don’t care about things like that any more. The reason is very simple: I’m perfectly happy just as I am. The reason? I got rid of most of my material possessions.

Minimalism is a lifestyle in which 3you reduce your possessions to the least possible. Living with only the bare essentials has not only provided superficial benefits such as the pleasure of a tidy room or the simple ease of cleaning, 4it has also led to a more fundamental shift. It’s given me a chance to think about what it really means to be happy.

We think that 5the more we have, the happier we will be. 6We never know what tomorrow might bring, so we collect and save as much as we can. This means we need a lot of money, so we gradually start judging people by how much money they have. You convince yourself that you need to make a lot of money so you don’t miss out on success. And for you to make money, you need everyone else to spend their money. And so it goes.

So I said goodbye to a lot of things, many of which I’d had for years. And yet now I live each day with a happier spirit. 7I feel more content now than I ever did in the past.

I wasn’t always a minimalist. I used to buy a lot of things, believing that all those possessions would increase my self-worth and lead to a happier life. I loved collecting a lot of useless stuff, and I couldn’t throw anything away. I was a natural hoarder of knick-knacks that I thought made me an interesting person.

At the same time, though, I was always comparing myself with other people who had more or better things, 8which often made me miserable. I couldn’t focus on anything, and I was always wasting time. Alcohol was my escape, and I didn’t treat women fairly. I didn’t try to change; I thought this was all just part of who I was, and I deserved to be unhappy.

My apartment wasn’t horribly messy; if my girlfriend was coming over for the weekend, I could do enough tidying up to make it look presentable. On a usual day, however, there were books stacked everywhere because there wasn’t enough room on my bookshelves. Most I had thumbed through once or twice, thinking that 9I would read them when I had the time.

The closet was crammed with what used to be my favorite clothes, most of which I’d only worn a few times. The room was filled with all the things I’d taken up as hobbies and then gotten tired of. A guitar and amplifier, covered with dust. Conversational English workbooks I’d planned to study once I had more free time. Even a fabulous antique camera, 10which of course I had never once put a roll of film in.

11It may sound as if I’m exaggerating when I say I started to become a new person. Someone said to me: “All you did is throw things away,” which is true. 12But by having fewer things around, I’ve started feeling happier each day. I’m slowly beginning to understand what happiness is.

If you are anything like I used to be – miserable, constantly comparing yourself with others, or just believing your life sucks – 13I think you should try saying goodbye to some of your things. […] Everyone wants to be happy. But trying to buy happiness only makes us happy for a little while.

Fonte: adaptado de <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/apr/12/goodbye-things-hello-minimalism-can-living-with-lessmake-you-happier>. Acesso em: 21 mai. 2017.

**1.** (Ita 2018) Todas as frases abaixo usam a forma comparativa do adjetivo, **EXCETO**:

a) The rent is cheaper, (ref. 2)

b) … you reduce your possessions to the least possible. (ref. 3)

c) … the more we have, the happier we will be. (ref. 5)

d) I feel more content now than I ever did in the past. (ref. 7)

e) But by having fewer things around, (ref. 12)

**2.** (G1 - col. naval 2017) Complete the dialogue using the right form of the adjectives.

A: Would you like to go the beach on Friday?

B: Actually, I think Saturday is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for me. Friday is my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day.

Choose the item that respectively completes the gaps.

a) the best / busier

b) better / busiest

c) good / the most busiest

d) best / the busiest

e) good / the busier

TEXTO PARA A PRÓXIMA QUESTÃO:

**The Phenomenon of Candy Crush: Why Is the Game So Popular?**

In 2012, Candy Crush was released on Facebook and was later converted to smartphone format for people to play on the go. In 2013, the game reached real prominence and became the most popular game on Facebook. It’s no surprise then that so many people play this game on their phones. 1Candy Crush Saga has changed the way many of us kill time on commutes, or even in the toilet. 2I don’t remember the last train journey I took where at least one person wasn’t playing Candy Crush on their phone. I’m sure almost every reader of this article will have either been invited or invited others to play Candy Crush via Facebook in an effort to get more lives or even levels.

Despite being incredibly similar to many games over the years, Candy Crush Saga has added new depth to the genre, with seemingly unlimited combinations of new scenarios and concepts. So, this mixture of simplicity and variety is what makes Candy Crush so unbelievably popular.

As a result, Candy Crush Saga shows no signs of slowing down. New levels are generally released via the Facebook version every three weeks, with new levels also being made frequently available for the smartphone version. With 6.7 million active users, the developers are rumored to be earning $633,000 per day from Candy Crush users.

Adapted from <http://metro.co.uk/2013/09/27/>

**3.** (Espcex (Aman) 2015) De acordo com o texto, a popularidade da Candy Crush Saga é porque

a) é uma combinação de muitos jogos ao longo dos ano.

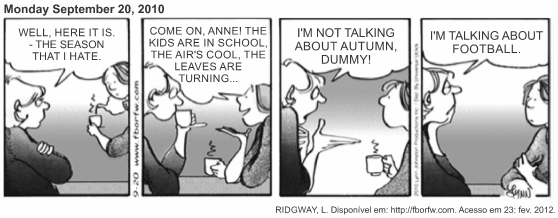
b) foi convertido para o formato smartphone.

c) as pessoas podem jogar no banheiro.

d) foi lançado no Facebook em 2012.

e) é uma mistura de simplicidade e variedade.

**4.** (Enem 2015)



Na tira da série *For better or for worse,* a comunicação entre as personagens fica comprometida em um determinado momento porque

a) as duas amigas divergem de opinião sobre futebol.

b) uma das amigas desconsidera as preferências da outra.

c) uma das amigas ignora que o outono é temporada de futebol.

d) uma das amigas desconhece a razão pela qual a outra a maltrata.

e) as duas amigas atribuem sentidos diferentes a palavra *season*.

**5.** (Enem 2013) **Steve Jobs: A life Remembered 1955-2011**

Readersdigest.ca takes a look back at Steve Jobs, and his contribution to our digital world.

CEO. Tech-Guru. Artist. There are few corporate figures as famous and well-regarded as former-Apple CEO Steve Jobs. His list of achievements is staggering, and his contribution to modern technology, digital media, and indeed the world as a whole, cannot be downplayed.

With his passing on October 5, 2011, readersdigest.ca looks back at some of his greatest achievements, and pays our respects to a digital pioneer who helped pave the way for a generation of technology, and possibilities, few could have imagined.

Disponível em: [www.readersdigest.ca](http://www.readersdigest.ca).

Acesso em: 25 fev. 2012.

Informações sobre pessoas famosas são recorrentes na mídia, divulgadas de forma impressa ou virtualmente.

Em relação a Steve Jobs, esse texto propõe

a) expor as maiores conquistas da sua empresa.

b) descrever suas criações na área da tecnologia.

c) enaltecer sua contribuição para o mundo digital.

d) lamentar sua ausência na criação de novas tecnologias.

e) discutir o impacto de seu trabalho para a geração digital.

**GABARITO**

Gabarito: 1-B/ 2-B/ 3-E/ 4-E/ 5-C