**Using Modifiers: Comparative and Superlative Review**

**The Comparative Degree:**

* We use the comparative degree when we are comparing two things.
* When using the comparative degree the word “**than**” always come **after** the modifier.
* To form the regular comparative degree we follow these rules:
  + **If the modifier is one syllable-** We add the letters “er “ to the end of the modifier.
    - **Example:** *Wisconsin* is cold**er** than *Ecuador*.
* **If the modifier is two syllables**- We sometimes add “er” to he end of modifier, OR we sometimes add the word “more” before the modifier.
  + Example: *Literature* is simpl**er** than *grammar*.
  + Example: Her *boyfriend* is **more** handsome than *Justin Bieber*.
* **If the modifier is three or more syllables**- We add the word “more” before the modifier.
  + Example: The *tiger* is **more** dangerous than the *snake*.
* To show decreasing levels of comparison we use the word “less” before the comparative modifier
  + Example: *Literature* is **less** interesting than *science*.

**The Superlative Degree:**

* We use the comparative degree when we are comparing **more than** two things.
* When using the comparative degree the word “**the**” always come **before** the modifier.
* To form the regular superlative degree we follow these rules:
  + **If the modifier is one syllable-** We add the letters “est “ to the end of the modifier.
    - **Example:** *Of all the places I have traveled,* Alaska is the cold**est**.
* **If the modifier is two syllables**- We sometimes add “est” to he end of modifier, OR we sometimes add the word “most” before the modifier.
  + Example: *Of the four subjects,* Literature is the simpl**est.**
  + Example: Her boyfriend is **most** the handsome *man I have ever seen*.
* **If the modifier is three or more syllables**- We add the word “most” before the modifier.
  + Example: *Between the snake, the tiger, and the bear,* the tiger is the **most** dangerous.
* To show decreasing levels of comparison we use the word “less” before the superlative modifier
  + Example: Math is the **least** interesting *of all my classes*.

**Be careful!!!!**

**Irregular Modifiers.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive** | **Comparative** | **Superlative** |
| Bad | Worse | Worst |
| Far | Farther | Farthest |
| Good (adjective) | Better | Best |
| Well (Adverb) | Better | Best |
| Many/much | More | Most |
| Little (size) | Littler | Littlest |
| Little (amount) | Less | Least |

**Do not use double comparisons!**

Incorrect: She is the most beautifulest girl I have ever seen.

Correct: She is the most beautiful girl I have ever seen.

Incorrect: This dog runs more quicklier than that cat.

Correct: The dog runs more quickly than the cat.

Incorrect: Guayaquil is more hotter than Quito.

Correct: Guayaquil is hotter than Quito.

**Do not use double negatives!**

**Common Negative Words :**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Barely | Hardly | Neither | Never |
| No | No one | Nobody | None |
| Not | Nothing | Nowhere | Scarcely |

Incorrect: I barely never go the beach.

Correct: I barely ever go the beach.

Correct: I never go to the beach.

Incorrect: I don´t never study for my grammar exams.

Correct: I don´t study for my grammar exams.

Correct: I never study for my grammar exams.