

REVISION OF GRAMMAR

Adjectives

A quick reminder:

When we want to describe a noun, we use special words called **adjectives**.

Here are some examples:

Luke was looking at an old book when he found the map. Lost Loot, it was called. The Pleasure of Treasure.

Who knows, thought Luke. Here I am deep in the South American jungle. I might find some treasure! How exciting.

Out fell a map. It was yellow with age. It was crumpled and torn, rumpled and worn. "Wow," said Luke. "A real treasure map!"

(From *The Eye of the Idol*, Adventure stories, Ziptales)



All the words highlighted are adjectives.

Why do we need them?

Because they make our writing more interesting. Read this sentence:

Out fell a map.

Now, let's add some adjectives:

Out fell a map. It was yellow with age. It was **crumpled** and **torn**,
rumped and **worn**.

The adjectives make the sentence more interesting and give us a much clearer picture of the noun they are describing, in this case – a map.

Look at these examples of how using different adjectives can change the same noun they are describing:

an **excited** boy; an **upset** boy; an **overjoyed** boy

a **sweet** and **happy** girl; a **mean** and **nasty** girl; a **lonely** and **forgotten** girl

a **lovely brown** and **gold** horse; a **tiny black** and **white** horse

a **spooky, cobweb-infested, haunted** house; a **large, beautiful, welcoming** house

But...adjectives can be complicated.

Sometimes you want to make comparisons. For example:

My baby cousin is very **small**. (adjective)

My baby cousin is **smaller** than me. (comparative)

My baby cousin is the **smallest** member of the family. (superlative)

Rules for comparing adjectives.

Rule 1: Usually we just add 'er' and 'est' to adjectives when we are using comparisons.

For example: **tall, taller, tallest** and **fast, faster, fastest**

Rule 2: If the adjective ends with a vowel then a consonant, we need to double the last letter before adding 'er' and 'est'.

For example: **big, bigger, biggest** and **sad, sadder, saddest**

Rule 3: If the adjective ends in 'y', we change 'y' to 'i', then add 'er' and 'est'.

For example: **scary, scarier, scariest and happy, happier, happiest**

Rule 4: Sometimes we *don't* add 'er' and 'est' – we put 'more' and 'most' *before* the adjective we are comparing.

For example: **beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful**

terrifying, more terrifying, most terrifying

EXERCISE 1

Write the correct form of the adjectives in the brackets to finish these sentences about the story *The Eye of the Idol*.

1. Luke walked for a _____ time through the valley. (long)
2. Ahead was the _____ ravine he had ever seen. (deep)
3. In the swamp were long shapes that looked _____ than rocks. Crocodiles!
(dark)
4. Luke saw three caves - one looked _____ than the others. (big)
5. He made his way across the _____ rope bridge. (shaky)
6. The bridge broke. Down he fell. It was the _____ moment of his life. (terrifying)
7. Luke fell into the water right next to a huge crocodile. This was _____ than falling! (scary)
8. Luke leapt onto the huge crocodile, then jumped onto a _____ crocodile.
(small)
9. He finally made it back to the shore where he felt much _____. (safe)
10. Luke saw the skull rock. It was _____ than he expected. (large)

11. He went inside the cave. It was full of the _____ snakes on earth! (slimy)
12. Luke saw a golden statue – it was the _____ thing he had ever seen.
(beautiful)
13. He heard a noise – there was a _____ man behind him holding a gun.
(strange)
14. Luke knew his safety was _____ than getting the statue. (important)

EXERCISE 2

Circle the correct use of the adjective in these sentences.

- 1 Jemma is the **nice/nicer/nicest** girl I have ever met.
- 2 I think the circus is the **great/greater/greatest** show on earth.
- 3 One of the baby birds looked **small/smaller/smallest** than the others.
- 4 We chose the **little/littler/littlest** rabbit to take home for our pet.
- 5 “Thank you children for being **quiet/quieter/quietest** than before,” said the teacher.
- 6 The **big/bigger/biggest** boy in the school broke his arm.
- 7 It was the **beautiful/more beautiful/most beautiful** horse I had ever seen.
- 8 Our class is always **noisy/noisier/noisiest** than the class next door.
- 9 The brontosaurus was **large/larger/largest** than most other dinosaurs.
- 10 They were the **comfortable/more comfortable/most comfortable** shoes I had ever worn.

Challenge

Some adjective comparisons use completely different words! For example:

bad worse worst

good better best

far further furthest

many more most

Circle the correct use of the adjective in these sentences.

That morning, I felt **bad/worse/worst** than ever.

My dog has really **bad/worse/worst** breath after eating his dinner.

Tom is **good/better/best** than me at swimming.

It's the **good/better/best** movie I've seen this year.

Our house is the **far/further/furthest** away from the school.

We walked **far/further/furthest** than usual.

I ate **many/more/most** lollies than you at the party.

Our largest chicken always lays the **many/more/most** eggs.