Module : English

Master Classes

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Lecture One: Comparatives and Superlatives

Forming regular comparatives and superlatives

1. We use comparatives to compare two things or two people. (e.g She is taller than her husband.)
2. Superlatives are used, however, to show the difference between more than two things or more than two people. (e.g Paris is the biggest city in France)
3. To form comparatives and superlatives you need to know the number of the *syllables* in the adjective. *Syllables* are like "sound beats".

For instance:

- "find" contains one syllable,
- but "finding" contains two — *find* and *ing*.

The rules to form comparatives and superlatives:

1. One syllable adjective ending in a silent 'e' — **nice**

- Comparative — add 'r' — **nicer**
- Superlative — add 'st' — **nicest**

2. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant — **big**

- Comparative — the consonant is doubled and 'er' is added —**bigger**
- Superlative — the consonant is doubled and 'est' is added—**biggest**

3. One syllable adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel (or long vowels) — **high**, **cheap, soft.**

- Comparative — 'er' is added — **higher**, **cheaper, softer.**
- Superlative — 'est is added — **highest**, **cheapest** , **softest.**

4. A two syllable adjective ending in 'y' — **happy**

- Comparative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added — **happier**
- Superlative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'est' is added **— happiest**

5. Tow syllable or more adjectives without 'y' at the end **— exciting**

- Comparative **—** more + the adjective + than **— more exciting than**
- Superlative **—** more + the adjective + than **— the most exciting**

Examples:

- The Nile River is **longer** and **more famous than** the Thames.
- Egypt is much **hotter than** Sweden.
- Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world.
- This is one of **the most exciting** films I have ever seen.

Irregular comparatives and superlatives

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
bad	worse	worst
far(distance)	farther	farthest
far(extent)	further	furthest
good	better	best
little	less	least
many	more	most

much	more	most

How to use comparatives and superlatives

Comparatives	Superlatives
Comparatives are used to compare two things or two people: *Alan is taller than John.*	Superlatives are used to compare more than two things or two people. Superlative sentences usually use 'the': *Alan is the most intelligent.*

Similarities

To express similarities use the following structure:

... **as** + ***adjective*** + **as** ...

Examples:

- Mike is **as** *intelligent* **as** Nancy.
- Larry is **as** *popular* **as** Oprah.

Lecture Two: Structure of a scientific research paper

- Scientific research papers usually follow a standard format which is logical, has an easy to understand structure, and which reflects "the scientific method of deductive reasoning: define the problem, create a hypothesis, devise an experiment to test the hypothesis, conduct the experiment, and draw conclusions." (ACS Style Guide, Chap 2, p. 19).

Note: When writing a research paper, the sections may follow a different format and procedure for the different science disciplines. The format may also be varied by the specific journal which is publishing a research article.

Writing a Chemistry Research Paper

Title	- keep the title short, include the author's name - use essential keywords to describe the paper's content
Abstract	- briefly state the purpose of this research - summarize the main concepts, scope, findings, and conclusions
Introduction	- state the problem and reason for completing this research - discuss any techniques used - review the relevant research literature published on this topic (citing your sources) and relate your current research to this literature
Experimental Details *	- describe the experimental procedures used (so that other researchers can replicate your research) - include information about the reaction and processes : list the materials & apparatus used in your experiment (mass of materials before/after, percent yield), and the process mechanism - list the materials & apparatus used in your experiment

Results	- summarize the data you collected (e.g. in table format) - summarize the statistical analysis you used on the data (calculations)
Discussion **	- discuss & interpret what your results mean and relate them to the stated problem – Are there possible solutions to suggest? - relate your findings to the research literature on this topic (citing sources)
Conclusion & Summary	- state a brief conclusion to this research, if not already stated in the Discussion section - in this section, you can make possible suggestions for future research on this topic
References	- list all the research papers whose work you discussed and cited in the text of this paper
Appendices	- may be required (e.g. to list raw data that was collected)

- **Atlernative titles:** Experimental, Experimental Section, Theoretical Analysis, or Materials & Methods.
- The Discussion and Conclusion are often combined into one section.