

# The Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives

Qualitative adjectives have the positive, the comparative and the superlative degrees. The comparative and the superlative degrees are formed in various ways:

- ✓ by means of the endings *-er* and *-est*
- ✓ by means of the words *more* and *the most*

**Adjectives that form the comparative by means of the endings *-er* and *-est***

- All one-syllable adjectives (quick – quicker – the quickest)
- Adjectives of two syllables ending in *-y*, *-er*, *-le*, *-se* & many diphthongs (the lovelier)
- Adjectives of two syllables with the stress on the second syllable (quicker – the quickest)

**Adjectives that form the comparative by means of the words *more* and *the most***

- All adjectives of three or more syllables (prettier – more beautiful – the most beautiful)
- Adjectives of two syllables with the stress on the first syllable (further – more further – the most further)

## IRREGULARS

- ✓ If the adjective ends in one consonant preceded by a short vowel, the final consonant is doubled before *-er* and *-est* (short – shorter – the shortest)
- ✓ If the adjective ends in *y* preceded by a consonant, the *y* is changed into *i* before the endings *-er* and *-est* (large – larger – the largest)
- ✓ If the adjective ends in *-e*, it is dropped before *-er* and *-est* (large – larger – the largest)

## Examples:

Cloudier – the cloudiest  
smaller – smaller – the smallest  
little – little – the least  
faster – the fastest

# Exercises

Give degrees of comparison of the following adjectives:

|           |       |              |       |
|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1) small  | _____ | 2) heavy     | _____ |
| 3) thin   | _____ | 4) beautiful | _____ |
| 5) long   | _____ | 6) large     | _____ |
| 7) wide   | _____ | 8) light     | _____ |
| 9) narrow | _____ | 10) wide     | _____ |