

Comparison of Adjectives

Adjectives are compared in Latin in the same manner as in English. There are three degrees of comparison: 1) Positive; 2) Comparative; 3) Superlative:

1) Positive:	long	short	tall
2) Comparative:	longer	shorter	taller
3) Superlative:	longest	shortest	tallest

1. Positive Adjectives:

The Positive Degree of Adjectives is the normal form: *longus, -a, -um*.

2. Comparative Adjectives

Adjectives are compared by adding *-ior* (M.&F.) or *-ius* (N.) to the base. The base is taken from the genitive singular of the adjective. The comparative adjective is then declined as a regular third declension (i.e., not i-stems).

	Masc. & Fem.		Neuter	
Nom.	longior	longiores	longius	longiora
Gen.	longioris	longiorum	longioris	longiorum
Dat.	longiori	longioribus	longiori	longioribus
Acc.	longiorem	longiores	longius	longiora
Abl.	longiore	longioribus	longiore	longioribus

3. Superlative Adjectives:

Superlative adjectives are formed by adding normal 1st and 2nd declension endings (*-us, -a, -um*) to the base. The stem is taken from the genitive singular:

longissimus, -a, -um brevissimus, -a, -um felicissimus, -a, -um

Translation of the Superlative:

In Latin the superlative is broader in meaning than in English. It can mean *longest* (as in English); but also *rather long* or *too long*.

4. Comparison with *Quam*:

Latin can use *quam* (than) to compare two words. If *quam* is used, the words compared are in the same case: *Puellae diligentiores quam pueri sunt*.

5. Ablative of Comparison:

If the word to be compared is in the nominative or accusative, *quam* may be omitted and the second word put in the ablative: *Puellae diligentiores pueris sunt*.