



**COMPARATIVES  
&  
SUPERLATIVES**



- **“Comparative”** is the name for the grammatical structure which compares two things. We can compare by using:
  - A) *“more... than”* (superiority)
  - B) *“as... as”/“not as... as”* (equality)
  - C) *“less... than”* (inferiority)

# What changes do adjectives experience in superiority comparisons?



- **1 One-syllable adjectives:** add **-er** to the adjective.
- *E.g. short -> shorter: My hair is **shorter than** yours.*
- *fast -> faster: Their car is **faster than** ours.*
- *tall -> taller: Jeremy is **taller than** Bill.*
- *cheap -> cheaper: This tracksuit was **cheaper than** the blue one.*
- *sad -> sadder: The novel you lent me is **sadder than** that one that I borrowed from the library.*



- **2 Two-syllable adjectives ending in –y: change the –y to –ier.**
- *E.g. Sharon looks **happier** today.*
- *I believe your number will be **luckier than** mine.*
- *The first listening test was **easier than** the second one.*
- *The first jokes were **funnier than** the last ones.*
- *Susan has become **friendlier** over the years.*



- **3 The rest of adjectives:** use **more** before the unchanged adjective.
- *E.g. The stores are **more crowded** before Christmas.*
- *You need to be **more careful** when you approach a school and the traffic lights are green for pedestrians.*
- *This podcast is **more interesting** because of the subject they're commenting on.*
- *The film we saw last week was **more boring!***



- In terms of **equality** and **inferiority**, adjectives do not go through any changes.
- *E.g. Your car is **as old as** mine.*
- *This house is **less glamorous than** your grandma's.*
- *Your dog is not **as noisy as** my parrot.*
- *Jogging is **less tiring than** running.*
- *Sailing isn't **as dangerous as** scuba diving.*

# How about superlatives?



- **-One-syllable and two-syllable adjectives ending in -y:** add **-est** to the adjective.
  - *E.g. She's **the calmest** person I know*
  - *I consider you're **the friendliest** in the group.*
- **-The rest of adjectives:** use **the most** before the adjective:
  - *E.g. I received **the most surprising** gift of all.*
  - *I consider this **the most amusing** place I've ever visited.*
  - *My diet is **the healthiest** according to my doctor.*

# Irregular cases



- The following cases are **irregular** ones to bear in mind:
- *Good/Better/The best*
- *Bad/Worse/The worst*
- *Far/Further-Farther/The furthest-The farthest*



## By the way...



- What's the opposite of **the most**?
- **The least** expresses an inferiority superlative.
- *E.g. This watch is **the least expensive** (the cheapest).*
- *My horse is **the least obedient** I'm afraid.*
- *I'm glad to tell you that your room is **the least dirty** in the house.*
- *Megan is **the least lazy** worker by far.*
- *Jamie and Rob are **the least outgoing** in the club.*



Example:



beautiful



ugly

The queen is **more** beautiful than the witch.

**Tom is stronger than Peter,  
but Bob is the strongest.**

Tom



Peter

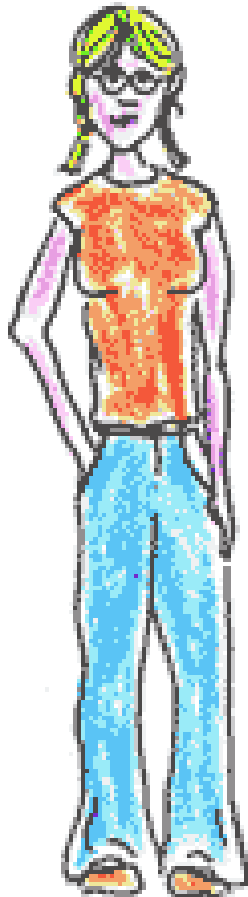


Bob



# Let's practise!!

Mum  
She's 38



Susan  
She's 10



John  
He's 9



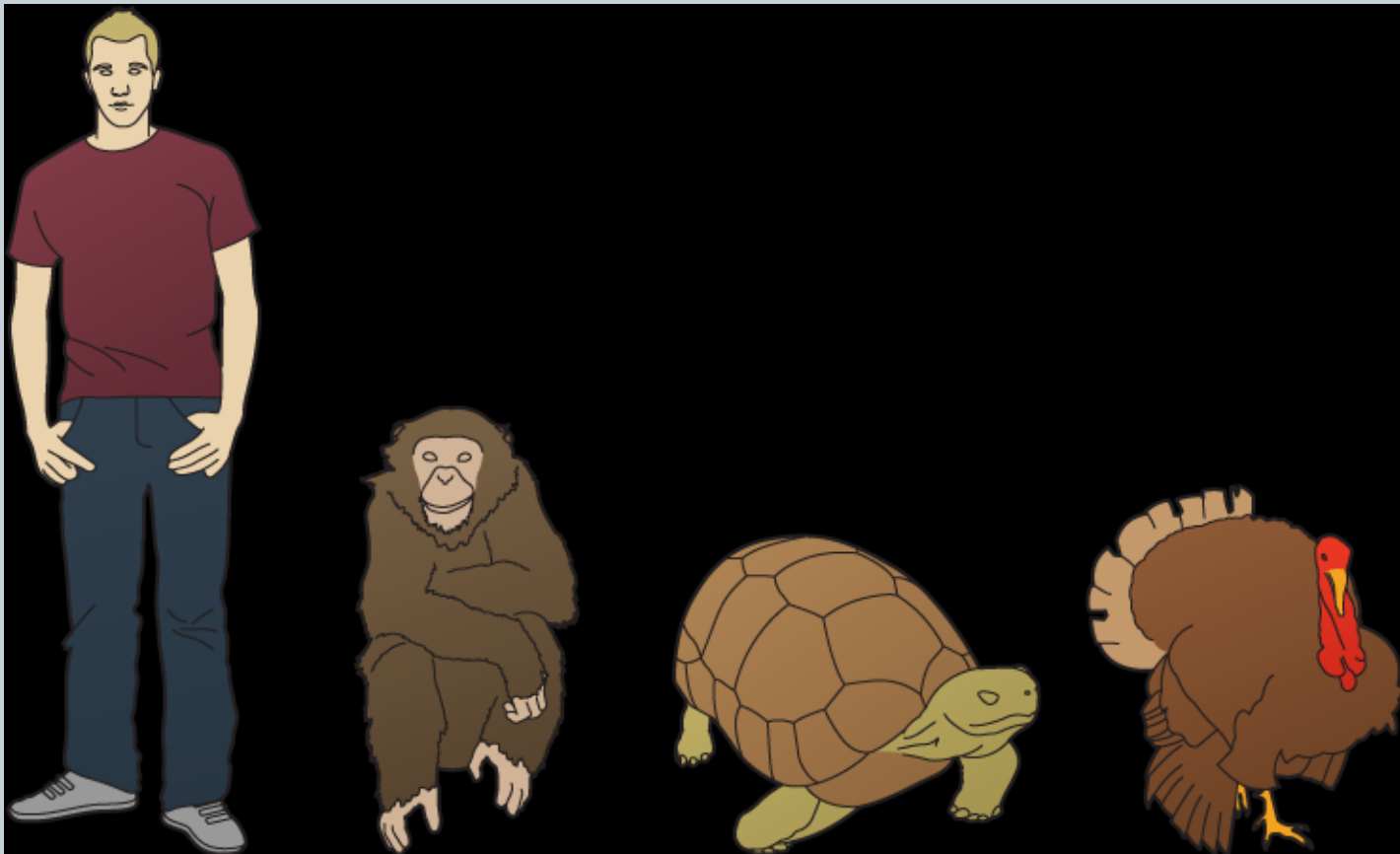
Ana  
She's 2







- Tall/dangerous/clever/friendly/tasty/slow/boring...





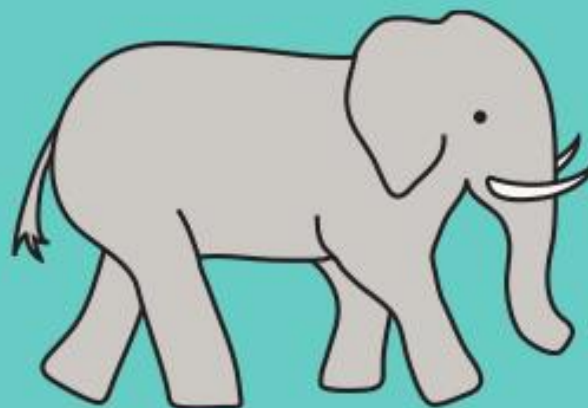
Ana

Peter

Mark

Martha

Beth







- 1: \_\_\_\_\_ is the tallest.
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_ is shortest.
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_ is the fattest.
- 4: \_\_\_\_\_ is the thinnest.
- 5: \_\_\_\_\_ is the oldest.
- 6: \_\_\_\_\_ is the youngest.
- 7: \_\_\_\_\_ is the biggest.
- 8: \_\_\_\_\_ is the smallest.
- 9: Bart is the smallest, the youngest and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10: Barney is the biggest and the \_\_\_\_\_.