



Università degli Studi del Sannio  
Centro Linguistico di Ateneo

# LESSON 4

## Level A1/A2

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*Video realizzato*



*Centro Linguistico di Ateneo  
Università degli Studi del Sannio*

# Lesson 4 - Contents

- The Comparative (1-3)
- The Superlative (1-2)
- Irregular comparatives / superlatives

# The comparative - 1

The **comparative** is used to compare two people or things:

1. Il prosciutto è più caro della carne. (+ maggioranza)
2. La carne è meno cara del prosciutto. (- minoranza)
3. La carne è tanto cara quanto il prosciutto (= uguaglianza)

# The comparative - 2

## 1. (+ maggioranza)

- For short words (one syllable) we add **–er**:

*short – short**er**; tall – tall**er***

- For longer words (more than 1 syllable) and for adverbs that end in –ly we use **more...**

*interesting – **more** interesting; slowly – **more** slowly*

With 2-syllable adjectives you can use **–er** or **more...**:

*clever – narrow – quiet – shallow – simple*

**Example** *The water over there is shallower / more shallow than here.*

**After comparatives you often use than.**

**Example** *This dress is more elegant **than** that, and it's cheaper too!*

# The comparative - 3

## 2. (- minoranza)

In this case the word used is **less...** There is no difference between short and long words.

**Example** George is **less** interested in computers than Harry.  
Ann is **less** rich than Hughes but she's **richer** than Phil.

## 3. (- uguaglianza)

In this case the words used are **as...as**. There is no difference between short and long words.

**Example** Dan is **as** good at maths **as** at languages.

### **Remember!**

In English **not as... as** is more common than **less... than**.

**Example** Jerry's photos are not as good as Maria's.

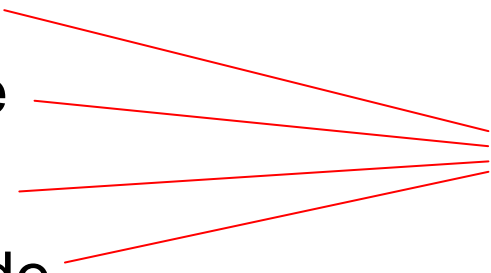
# The superlative - 1

## Superlativo assoluto

It's used when we express an absolute value, without a comparison with something else.

**Example** *The Ferrari is a very fast car.*

grandissimo  
molto grande  
tanto grande  
grande grande



very big

The diagram consists of four red lines originating from the right side of the four Italian phrases and converging towards the underlined word 'very' in the English translation.

## Superlativo relativo

It's used when something is compared to a group of things.

**Example** *Pierre is the tallest boy in his class.*

# The superlative - 2

## Superlativo relativo

+ **The –est** or **The most...** The rules are the same as for the comparative.

- **The least...**

**Example** This is *the most incredible* story I've ever heard!

Leonardo is one of *the greatest* Italian artists.

The Garden is *the least expensive* hotel in town.

### **Remember!**

Before a superlative you always need **the** and after you need **in** or **of**.

**Example** London is *the biggest city in* the UK and one of *the most multicultural of* all (the cities).

# Irregular comparatives/ superlatives

Some adjectives/adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms:

	Comparative	Superlative
good /well	better	the best
bad	worse	the worst
far	farther /further	the farthest

## ***Remember!***

Per rafforzare un comparativo si può aggiungere **much**.

**Example** *I don't like football. Volleyball is **much better**!*

*They think history is **much more interesting** than philosophy.*