**KINDS OF ADJECTIVES**

1. **Gradable and non-gradable adjectives**
2. **Attributive and predicative adjectives**

The terms **attributive and predicative** refer to the position of an adjective in a phrase or sentence. We say that an adjective is **attributive** or is used attributively when it comes before a noun, an article has to be used:

* **an old ticket, a rich man, a young girl**

We say that an adjective is **predicative** or that it is used predicatively when it comes directly after a verb such as: be, become, seem

* **This ticket is old. Ann seems happy.**

**COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES**

There are **three degrees** of comparison:

* **positive** (or absolute): dark, young, useful
* **comparative**: darker, younger, more useful
* s**uperlative**: darkest, youngest, most useful

**The comparative is used for a comparison between two, and the superlative where more than two are involved.**

**Comparison** is expressed by

1. the inflected forms in **-er** and **-est,**
2. their periphrastic equivalents in **more** and **most**,
3. the forms for equational, **lesser** and least degrees of comparison, notably as, **less, least**.

**Form of regular comparison of adjectives**

**Monosyllabic adjectives** form their comparison by **inflection**. The inflectional suffixes are -er for the comparative and -est for the superlative:

* **big – bigger – biggest**
* **nice – nicer – nicest**
* **tidy – tidier – tidiest**
* **narrow – narrower – narrowest**

The **definite article** the is used before a **superlative** in a phrase or sentence:

* This is **the cleanest/tidiest room** in the house.

The regular inflections sometimes involve changes in **spelling** **or pronunciation**.

**Changes in spelling**

1. Final base consonants are doubled when the preceding vowel is stressed and spelled with a single letter:
   * **big – bigger – biggest**
2. Final -e is dropped before the inflections:
   * **brave – braver – bravest**
3. In bases ending in a consonant + -y, the final -y is changed to -i-:
   * **busy – busier – busiest** (But note shy, shyer, shyest)

A few adjectives have a vowel before a -y ending, like **gay, grey, fey**, and these simply take

the endings -**er** and -**est**.

Many **disyllabic adjectives** can form their comparatives and superlatives regularly, though like monosyllabic adjectives they have the alternative of the periphrastic forms:

* **My jokes are funnier/funniest.**

**more funny/most funny**

**Adjectives of three or more syllables** combine with the quantifiers **more/less** to form their

comparatives and **most/least** to form their superlatives:

* **careful – more careful – most careful**

**less careful – least careful**

**Irregular comparative and superlative forms**

A small group of highly frequent adjectives have their corresponding comparatives and superlatives formed from different stem:

* **good – better – best**
* **bad – worse – worst**
* **far – farther – farthest**

**– further – furthest**

* **near – nearer – nearest** 
  + **next**
* **old – older – oldest**

**– elder – eldest**

* **late – later – latest**

**– latter – last**

* **much/many – more – most**
* **little – less – least**

**– lesser**

**Compounds with good, well and bad:**

* **good-looking → better-looking (or more good-looking)**
* **well-built → better-built (but more well-built is sometimes heard)**
* **bad-tempered → worse-tempered (or more bad-tempered)**

**Použitá literatura**

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