

Grammar: Comparative and superlative adjectives

7 Look at the table and complete the rules. Then complete the superlative forms of the adjectives.

Comparative and superlative adjectives

Superlative:

The **most unusual** gift we received for Christmas was a picture of a goat.

Comparative:

It was **nicer** than last year's present.

Rules:

- We use _____ adjectives when we are comparing two things.
- We use _____ adjectives when we are comparing three or more things.
- We usually use the word _____ in front of superlative adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
big	bigger	<u>biggest</u>
important	more important	_____
pretty	prettier	_____
unusual	more unusual	_____
expensive	less expensive	_____

Special cases:

good	better	_____
bad	worse	_____

>> For more information on comparative and superlative adjectives, see page 173.

8 Complete these sentences. Use the comparative or superlative form of the adjective in brackets. Then discuss the sentences with a partner. Which ones do you agree with and why?

- The _____ (good) gifts are often surprises.
- The thought behind a gift is _____ (important) than its price.
- The _____ (useful) present you can give when times are hard is money.
- Promotional items with company names and logos make the _____ (bad) gifts.
- It's _____ (good) to give money to charity than gifts at Christmas.
- Tickets to events make great gifts. They're _____ (exciting) than things like socks.
- Don't give me chocolate again! I want to be _____ (thin) not _____ (fat).
- The _____ (nice) gifts often come in the _____ (small) packages.

Speaking: Choosing presents

9 Work in pairs or small groups. Your company is working on a joint venture with a company in China. You are visiting their offices next month and you want to take gifts for your colleagues there. If possible, you want to take things from your local region or country. Brainstorm some possible gifts.

- Make a list of ...
 - three things your colleagues can wear.
 - three examples of local handicrafts.
 - three items your colleagues can use in their office.
 - three things for your colleagues' homes.
 - three things to eat or drink.
 - three things to play with.
- Look at your list of possible gifts and compare them. Consider ...
 - Price:
Which gifts are the cheapest and which are the most expensive?
 - Transportation:
How easy will they be to carry? Which gifts are the largest, heaviest, easiest to break, etc?
 - How pleasing they are:
Which gifts are most useful and why? Which ones would you like most and why?
- You have one suitcase and your budget isn't large. Decide what to take. You need ...
 - one very special gift for the CEO.
 - six medium-priced gifts for the executive team.
 - twenty-four small gifts for everybody else.

10 Tell the class what gifts you decided on. Whose gift ideas were the most original? Whose gift ideas were the best?

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TALKING POINT

- What's the best gift you've ever received? Why?
- What's the most unusual gift you've ever received?