

# Lesson Twelve

## GRAMMAR

Comparatives  
Superlatives

## CONTEXT

U.S. Geography  
A Tale of Two Cities

## LESSON FOCUS

Adjectives and adverbs have three forms: simple form, comparative form, and superlative form.  
Compare these sets of adjectives.

SIMPLE

San Francisco is a *big* city.

COMPARATIVE

Los Angeles is *bigger* than San Francisco.

SUPERLATIVE

New York is the *biggest* city in the U.S.

SIMPLE

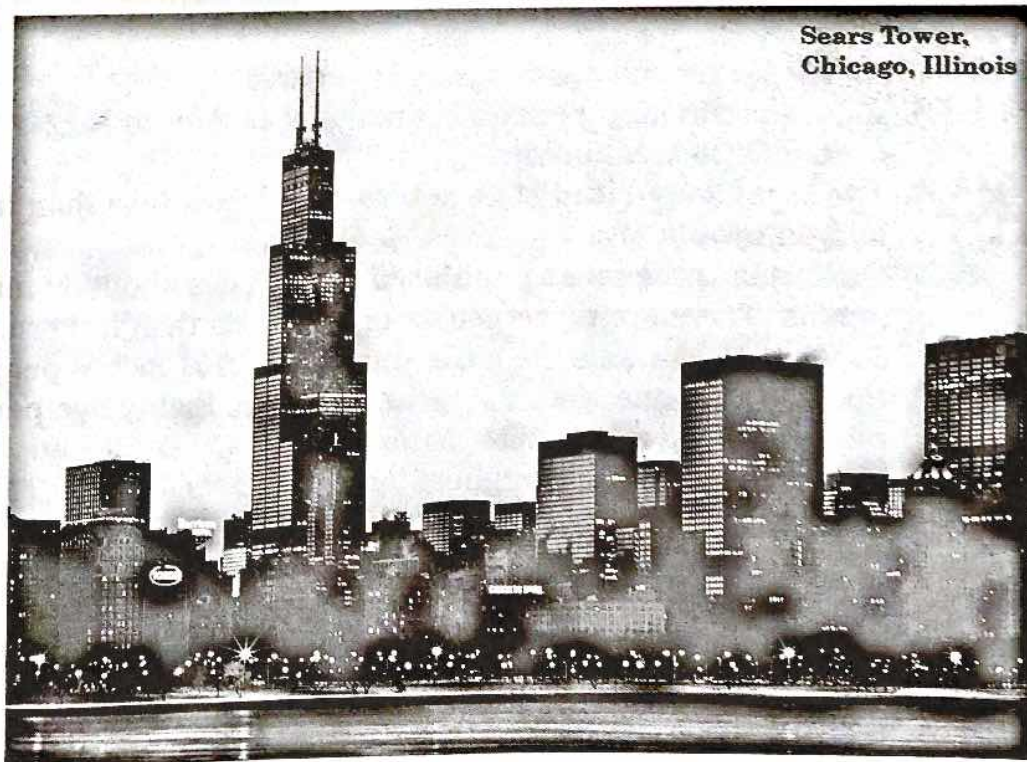
She is *intelligent*.

COMPARATIVE

She is *more intelligent* than her sister.

SUPERLATIVE

She is the *most intelligent* person in her family.





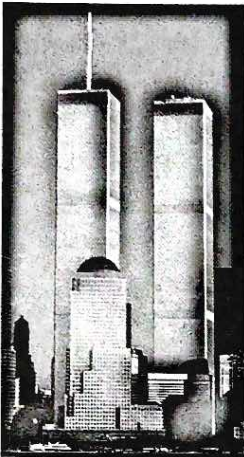
## Before You Read

1. What is the tallest building in this city?
2. In your opinion, what is the most interesting city? Why is it interesting?
3. What cities or regions have the best climate?

Read the following information. Pay special attention to comparative and superlative forms.



## U.S. Geography



World Trade Center,  
New York

1. In area, the United States is the third **largest** country in the world (after Russia and Canada).
2. In population, the U.S. is the third **largest** country in the world (after China and India).
3. The **biggest** city in the U.S. in population is New York. Chicago used to be the second **largest** city, but now Los Angeles is **larger** than Chicago.
4. The **tallest** building in the U.S. is the Sears Tower in Chicago (1,450 feet or 442 meters tall). It is even **taller** than the World Trade Center in New York. However, the Sears Tower is not the **tallest** building in the world. That building is in Kuala Lumpur (1,483 feet or 452 meters tall).
5. New York City has the **highest** cost of living.
6. Hispanics are the **fastest** growing minority in the U.S. In 1990, there were 5.9 million Hispanics in the U.S. That number rose to 20.9 million in 1996.
7. Rhode Island is the **smallest** state in area.
8. Alaska is the **largest** state in area. Alaska is even **larger** than Colombia, South America.
9. The **least populated** state is Wyoming. It has **less** than half a million people.
10. California is the **most populated** state. It has about 30 million people. There are **more** people in California than in Peru.
11. Juneau, Alaska, gets the **most** snow, about 101 inches per year.
12. Phoenix, Arizona, gets the **most** sunshine. Eighty-five percent of the days have sunshine.
13. Mount McKinley is the **highest** mountain in the U.S. (20,320 feet or 6,178 meters). It is in Alaska.
14. There are five great lakes in the U.S. The **biggest** is Lake Superior. The others are Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.

### Did you know...?

Before 1849, the population of California was very small. In 1849, gold was found in California and about 100,000 people rushed there to try to get rich.



# 12.1

## Comparatives and Superlatives

Examples	Explanation
<p>New York City is the <b>biggest</b> city in the U.S.</p> <p>California is the <b>most populated</b> state in the U.S.</p>	We use the superlative form to point out the number-one item in a group of three or more.
<p>Los Angeles is <b>bigger</b> than Chicago.</p> <p>There are <b>more</b> people in California than in Peru.</p>	We use the comparative form to compare two items.

### EXERCISE 1 Circle the correct word to complete the statement.

**EXAMPLE:** Chicago is *bigger* / *smaller* than Los Angeles.

- The tallest building in the world *is* / *isn't* in the U.S.
- The most populated state is *Alaska* / *California*.
- The U.S. *is* / *isn't* the largest country in the world in area.
- Alaska* / *California* has the largest area.
- The fastest growing minority is *Hispanic* / *African-American*.

# 12.2

## Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives and Adverbs

	Simple	Comparative	Superlative
One-syllable adjectives and adverbs	tall	taller	the tallest
	fast	faster	the fastest
<b>EXCEPTIONS:</b>	bored	more bored	the most bored
	tired	more tired	the most tired
Two-syllable adjectives that end in -y	easy	easier	the easiest
	happy	happier	the happiest
Other two-syllable adjectives	frequent	more frequent	the most frequent
	active	more active	the most active
Some two-syllable adjectives have two forms.	simple	simpler	the simplest
		more simple	the most simple
	common	commoner	the commonest
		more common	the most common
(Other two-syllable adjectives that have two forms are <i>handsome, quiet, gentle, narrow, clever, friendly, angry, polite, stupid.</i> )			

(continued)



	Simple	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives with three or more syllables	important difficult	more important more difficult	the most important the most difficult
-ly adverbs	quickly brightly	more quickly more brightly	the most quickly the most brightly
Irregular adjectives and adverbs	good/well bad/badly far little a lot	better worse farther less more	the best the worst the farthest the least the most

### SPELLING RULES FOR SHORT ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Rule	Simple	Comparative	Superlative
Add <i>-er</i> and <i>-est</i> to short adjectives and adverbs.	tall fast	taller faster	tallest fastest
For adjectives that end in <i>y</i> , change <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>-er</i> and <i>-est</i> .	easy happy	easier happier	easiest happiest
For adjectives that end in <i>e</i> , add <i>-r</i> and <i>-st</i> .	nice late	nicer later	nicest latest
For words ending in consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant, then add <i>-er</i> and <i>-est</i> . EXCEPTION: Do not double final <i>w</i> . new—newer—newest	big sad	bigger sadder	biggest saddest

### EXERCISE 2 Give the comparative and superlative forms of the word.

EXAMPLES: fat      fatter      the fattest  
important      more important      the most important

1. interesting      \_\_\_\_\_
2. young      \_\_\_\_\_
3. beautiful      \_\_\_\_\_
4. good      \_\_\_\_\_
5. common      \_\_\_\_\_
6. thin      \_\_\_\_\_

7. carefully \_\_\_\_\_
8. pretty \_\_\_\_\_
9. bad \_\_\_\_\_
10. famous \_\_\_\_\_
11. lucky \_\_\_\_\_
12. simple \_\_\_\_\_
13. high \_\_\_\_\_
14. delicious \_\_\_\_\_
15. far \_\_\_\_\_
16. foolishly \_\_\_\_\_

## 12.3 Superlative Adjectives

Examples	Explanation
<p>New York is <b>the biggest</b> city in the U.S.</p> <p>California is <b>the most populated</b> state in the U.S.</p>	<p>We use the superlative form to point out the number-one item of a group of three or more.</p> <p>Use <i>the</i> before a superlative form.</p>

### LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We sometimes put a prepositional phrase at the end of a superlative sentence.
 

in the world	in my family
in my class	in my country
2. We often say "one of the" before a superlative form. Then we use a plural noun.
 

San Francisco is *one of the* most beautiful *cities* in the U.S.

The Mississippi is *one of the* longest *rivers* in the world.

**EXERCISE 3** Fill in the blanks with the superlative form of the word in parentheses ( ). Include *the* before the superlative form.

**EXAMPLE:** Alaska is the largest state in area.  
(large)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ lake in the U.S. is Lake Superior.  
(big)



2. \_\_\_\_\_ river in the U.S. is the Missouri.  
(long)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in the U.S. is Mount McKinley.  
(high)
4. The computer is one of \_\_\_\_\_ inventions in recent years.  
(important)
5. Johnson is one of \_\_\_\_\_ last names in the U.S.  
(common)
6. *Casablanca* is one of \_\_\_\_\_ American movies of all time.  
(popular)
7. *Titanic* is one of \_\_\_\_\_ American movies of all time.  
(expensive)
8. Marilyn Monroe was one of \_\_\_\_\_ American actresses.  
(beautiful)
9. Harvard is one of \_\_\_\_\_ universities in the U.S.  
(good)
10. The Sears Tower is \_\_\_\_\_ building in the U.S.  
(tall)
11. Crime is one of \_\_\_\_\_ problems in the U.S.  
(bad)
12. Boston is one of \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the U.S.  
(old)

**EXERCISE 4** Talk about the number-one person in your family for each of these adjectives.

**EXAMPLES:** interesting  
My aunt Rosa is the most interesting person in my family.

tall  
The tallest person in my family is my brother Carlos.

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. intelligent        | 7. serious      |
| 2. kind               | 8. nervous      |
| 3. handsome/beautiful | 9. strong       |
| 4. stubborn           | 10. funny       |
| 5. lazy               | 11. responsible |
| 6. tall               | 12. neat        |

**EXERCISE 5**

Write a superlative sentence, giving your opinion about each of the following items. (You may use "one of the . . ." plus a plural noun.)

**EXAMPLE:**

big problem today

*The biggest problem in the U.S. today is crime.*

OR

*One of the biggest problems in my native country today is the economy.*

1. exciting sport

2. bad war

3. bad tragedy in the world or in the U.S.

4. important invention of the last 100 years

5. interesting city in the world

6. big problem in the U.S. today

7. bad job

8. good job

9. hard teacher at this school

10. popular movie star



# 12.4

## Superlatives and Word Order

Examples	Explanation
Which building is <b>the tallest</b> ? The Sears Tower is <b>the tallest building</b> .	Put superlative adjectives after the verb <i>be</i> or before the noun.
The Hispanic population is growing <b>the most quickly</b> .	Put superlative adverbs after the verb phrase.
It snows <b>the most</b> in Juneau.	Put <i>the most, the least, the best, the worst</i> after a verb.
Phoenix gets <b>the most</b> sunshine.	Put <i>the most, the least, the best, the worst</i> before a noun.

**EXERCISE 6** Name the person in your family who is the superlative in each of the following activities. (Put the superlative form after the verb.)

**EXAMPLES:**

cook well

My mother cooks the best in the family.

eat a lot

My brother eats the most in my family.

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. talk a lot         | 5. stay up late |
| 2. drive well         | 6. get up early |
| 3. walk fast          | 7. speak softly |
| 4. speak English well | 8. eat a lot    |

**EXERCISE 7** Name the person in your family who is the superlative in each of the following activities. (Put the superlative form before the noun.)

**EXAMPLE:**

watch a lot of TV

My brother watches the most TV. He watches TV four hours a day.

1. spend a lot of money
2. get a lot of mail
3. drink a lot of coffee
4. spend a lot of time in the bathroom



5. spend a lot of time on the telephone
6. have a bad temper
7. use a lot of makeup (women)

**Before You Read**

1. Is this city similar or very different from your native city?
2. Do you have any friends or relatives in American cities? Do you visit them?



Look at the following chart. Then read the sentences that follow. Pay special attention to comparative forms.

## A Tale of Two Cities

	Seattle	Minneapolis
Population	524,000	358,000
3 bedroom home	\$172,000	\$118,000
unemployment	3.1%	2.5%
dollar spent for each student	\$3,400	\$4,000
graduation rate	80%	60%
climate—rainfall	39 inches	26 inches
climate—snow	15 inches	46 inches
climate—sunny days	136	200

*(continued)*

	Seattle	Minneapolis
average high temp in July	75 degrees	82 degrees
average low temp in January	33 degrees	3 degrees
crime	914 per 100,000 people	1,850 per 100,000 people
job growth	8.8%	6.3%

- Seattle has a **larger** population than Minneapolis.
- A house in Seattle is **more expensive** than a house in Minneapolis.
- Unemployment in Seattle is **higher** than in Minneapolis.
- Minneapolis spends **more** on education than Seattle.
- Seattle has **more** high school graduates than Minneapolis.
- Seattle has **more** rain than Minneapolis.
- Minneapolis has **more** snow than Seattle.
- Minneapolis is **sunnier** than Seattle.
- Minneapolis is **warmer** in the summer.
- Minneapolis is **colder** in the winter.
- Minneapolis has **more** crime.
- Jobs in Seattle are growing **faster** than jobs in Minneapolis.

## 12.5 Comparisons

Examples	Explanation
<p>Minneapolis is <b>sunnier than</b> Seattle.</p> <p>A house in Seattle is <b>more expensive than</b> a house in Minneapolis.</p>	<p>We use the comparative form to compare two items. We use <i>than</i> before the second item of comparison.</p>

## LANGUAGE NOTES

1. Omit *than* if the second item of comparison is not included.  
Minneapolis is *sunnier* than Seattle, but it is *colder*.
2. *Much* or *a little* can come before a comparative form.  
Minneapolis is *much* colder in the winter.  
Unemployment is *a little* higher in Seattle.
3. When a pronoun follows *than*, the most correct form is the subject pronoun (*he, she, I, etc.*). Sometimes an auxiliary verb follows (*is, are, do, did, etc.*). Informally, many Americans use the object pronoun (*him, her, me, etc.*) after *than*. An auxiliary verb does not follow.



FORMAL

She is taller than he (*is*).

She is older than I (*am*).

INFORMAL

She is taller than *him*.

She is older than *me*.

**EXERCISE 8** Circle the correct words to complete the statement.

**EXAMPLE:** Minneapolis has more / less crime than Seattle.

1. Minneapolis has a *larger* / *smaller* population than Seattle.
2. Minneapolis has *more* / *less* snow than Seattle.
3. Houses in Minneapolis are *more expensive* / *less expensive* than houses in Seattle.
4. Jobs in Minneapolis are growing *faster* / *slower* than jobs in Seattle.
5. Minneapolis is a *safer* / *more dangerous* place to live.

**EXERCISE 9** Compare yourself to another person, or compare two people you know using these adjectives.

**EXAMPLES:** tall

My father is taller than I am. (OR than me.)

talkative

My mother is more talkative than my father.

- |             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. tall     | 5. thin     | 9. successful |
| 2. educated | 6. quiet    | 10. strong    |
| 3. friendly | 7. stubborn | 11. nervous   |
| 4. lazy     | 8. patient  | 12. polite    |

**EXERCISE 10** Compare men and women. Give your own opinion. Talk in general terms. Discuss your answers.

**EXAMPLE:** intelligent

In my opinion, women are more intelligent than men.

OR

In my opinion, men are more intelligent than women.

- |                |              |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. polite      | 5. kind      | 9. romantic     |
| 2. strong      | 6. friendly  | 10. sensitive   |
| 3. tall        | 7. talkative | 11. logical     |
| 4. intelligent | 8. patient   | 12. responsible |

## EXERCISE 11 Compare this city to your hometown.

### EXAMPLES:

big

Tokyo is bigger than Boston.

crowded

Tokyo is more crowded than Boston.

- |            |                   |           |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. crowded | 5. beautiful      | 8. safe   |
| 2. modern  | 6. interesting    | 9. dirty  |
| 3. big     | 7. cold in winter | 10. sunny |
| 4. noisy   |                   |           |

## 12.6

### Word Order with Comparisons

Examples	Explanation
Houses in Seattle are <b>more expensive</b> than houses in Minneapolis. I want to move to a <b>warmer</b> climate.	Put comparative adjectives after the verb <i>be</i> or before a noun.
He found a job <b>more quickly</b> in Minneapolis. She speaks English <b>more fluently</b> than I do.	Put comparative adverbs after the verb phrase.
It rains <b>more</b> in Seattle. You drive <b>better</b> than I do.	Put <i>more, less, better, worse</i> after a verb.
Minneapolis has <b>more</b> sunshine than Seattle. Seattle has <b>less</b> snow.	Put <i>more, less, fewer, better, worse</i> before a noun.

## EXERCISE 12 Compare men and women. Give your own opinion. Talk in general terms. Discuss your answers.

### EXAMPLES:

work hard

In my opinion, women work harder than men.

talk a lot

In my opinion, women talk more than men.

- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. run fast     | 3. take care of children well |
| 2. gossip a lot | 4. worry a lot                |



- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5. drive foolishly        | 9. think fast              |
| 6. work hard              | 10. live long              |
| 7. drive fast             | 11. get old fast           |
| 8. spend a lot on clothes | 12. make decisions quickly |

**EXERCISE 13** Compare this city to your hometown. Use *better*, *worse*, or *more*.

**EXAMPLES:**

factories  
Chicago has more factories than Ponce.

public transportation  
Moscow has better public transportation than Chicago.

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. traffic           | 7. factories        |
| 2. climate           | 8. tall buildings   |
| 3. rain              | 9. people           |
| 4. crime             | 10. sunshine        |
| 5. pollution         | 11. snow            |
| 6. job opportunities | 12. homeless people |

**EXERCISE 14** Make comparisons with the following words. Give your opinion and reasons. You may work with a partner or in a small group.

**EXAMPLE:**

men/women—have an easy life  
In my opinion, men have an easier life than women. Women have to work two jobs—in the office and at home.

1. men/women—have responsibilities  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. men/women—live long  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. American women/women in my native culture—have an easy life  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. American couples/couples in my native culture—have children  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. married men/single men—are responsible  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. American teenagers/teenagers in my native culture—have freedom  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. American teenagers/teenagers in my native culture—have responsibilities  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. American children/children in my native culture—have toys  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. American children/children in my native culture—have a good education  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. American teachers/teachers in my native culture—have high salaries  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. American teachers/teachers in my native culture—get respect  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 15** Fill in the blanks with the comparative or superlative form of the word in parentheses ( ). Include *than* or *the* where necessary.

**EXAMPLES:** August is usually hotter than May.  
(hot)

January is usually the coldest month of the year.  
(cold)

1. A lion is \_\_\_\_\_ a dog.  
(big)
2. A whale is \_\_\_\_\_ animal in the world.  
(big)
3. A dog is \_\_\_\_\_ a bird.  
(intelligent)
4. A dolphin is one of \_\_\_\_\_ animals in the world.  
(intelligent)
5. New York is \_\_\_\_\_ Los Angeles.  
(crowded)
6. Mexico City is one of \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the world.  
(crowded)
7. New York is a crowded city, but Tokyo is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(crowded)
8. San Francisco is one of \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the U.S.  
(beautiful)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ distance between two points is a straight line.  
(short)
10. Line A is \_\_\_\_\_ line B. A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_  
(short)



**EXERCISE 16** Two students in Seattle are talking. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to make comparatives and superlatives.

A. I'm planning to visit Chicago.

B. You're going to love it. It's a beautiful city. In fact, it's one of the most beautiful cities in the U.S.  
(example)

A. It's the second largest city, isn't it?

B. Not any more. Los Angeles is now \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago.  
(1)

A. What should I see while I'm there?

B. You can visit the Sears Tower. It's \_\_\_\_\_ building in the U.S. It has 110 stories. On a clear day, you can see many miles.  
(2)

A. Did you go to the top when you were there?

B. When I was there, the weather was bad. It was raining. I hope you have \_\_\_\_\_ weather than I had. When are you going?  
(3)

A. In August.

B. Ugh! August is the \_\_\_\_\_ month of the year. It's often 90 degrees or more. If you get hot, you can always go to the beach and cool off.  
(4)

A. Is Chicago near an ocean?

B. Of course not. It's near Lake Michigan.

A. Is it big like Lake Washington?

B. It's much \_\_\_\_\_ than Lake Washington. In fact, it's one of the \_\_\_\_\_ lakes in the U.S.  
(5)  
(6)

A. Is it very rainy?

B. Not in the summer. It's sunny. In fact, it's much \_\_\_\_\_ than Seattle.  
(7)

A. What do you suggest that I see?

B. You should see the famous architecture downtown. The \_\_\_\_\_ architects in the U.S. built buildings in Chicago.  
(8)

- A. Do I need to take taxis everywhere or does Chicago have a good public transportation system?
- B. Taxis are so expensive! They're much \_\_\_\_\_ than the buses and trains. You should use the public transportation. But remember there's a lot of crime in Chicago, so it's not safe to travel alone at night. It's \_\_\_\_\_ in the day time.
- A. Does Chicago have \_\_\_\_\_ crime than Seattle?
- B. Yes. But if you're careful, you'll be OK. I'm sure you'll enjoy it. It's an interesting place because it has people from all over the world. In fact, I think it's one of the \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the U.S.

## SUMMARY OF LESSON 12

### 1. Comparison of Adjectives

#### SHORT ADJECTIVES

Chicago is a **big** city.

Chicago is **bigger** than Boston.

New York is **the biggest** city in the U.S.

#### LONG ADJECTIVES

Houston is a **populated** city.

Chicago is **more populated** than Houston.

New York is **the most populated** city in the U.S.

### 2. Comparison of Adverbs

#### SHORT ADVERBS

She drives **fast**.

She drives **faster than** her husband.

Her son drives **the fastest** in the family.

#### -LY ADVERBS

You speak English **fluently**.

You speak English **more fluently than** your brother.

Your sister speaks English **the most fluently** in your family.

### 3. Word Order

#### VERB (PHRASE) + COMPARATIVE ADVERB

She **speaks English more fluently than** her husband.

She **talks more than** her husband.

#### COMPARATIVE WORD + NOUN

She has **more experience than** her husband.

She has a **better accent than** her sister.



1. Don't use a comparison word when there is no comparison.

California is a bigger state.

2. Don't use *more* and *-er* together.

My new car is more better than my old one.

3. Use *than* before the second item in a comparison.

He is younger <sup>than</sup> ~~that~~ his wife.

4. Use *the* before a superlative form.

China has <sup>the</sup> biggest population in the world.

5. Use a plural noun after the phrase "one of the."

Jim is one of the tallest <sup>s</sup> boy in the class.

6. Use the correct word order.

She <sup>drives faster</sup> ~~faster~~ drives than her husband.

I have <sup>more</sup> responsibilities ~~more~~ than you.

The U.S. is the ~~country~~ <sup>country</sup> most powerful in the world.

7. Don't use *the* with a possessive form.

My ~~the~~ best friend lives in London.

8. Use correct spelling.

She is <sup>happier</sup> ~~happyer~~ than her friend.

## LESSON 12 TEST / REVIEW

### PART 1

Find the mistakes with the underlined words, and correct them. Not every sentence has a mistake. If the sentence is correct, write C.

EXAMPLES: I am taller <sup>than</sup> my father.

I am tall, but my father is taller. C

1. Paul is one of the youngest student in this class.
2. She is more older than her husband.
3. I'm the most tall person in my family.
4. My father is more educated my mother.
5. She is the most intelligent person in her family.
6. New York City is biggest city in the U.S.
7. My sister's the oldest son got married last month.
8. Houston is a very big city.
9. He is much older than his wife.
10. New York is biger than Los Angeles.
11. I speak English more better than I did a year ago.
12. Book One is easier than Book Two.

## PART 2

Find the mistakes with word order and correct them. Not every sentence has a mistake. If the sentence is correct, write C.

**EXAMPLES:** You more (know) about the U.S. than I do.  
 Soccer is more interesting than football for me. C

1. I have problems more than you.
2. I earlier woke up than you.
3. Paris is the city most beautiful in the world.
4. She speaks English more fluently than her brother.
5. You faster type than I do.
6. My father is the most intelligent person in the family.
7. Your car is expensive more than my car.
8. You sing more beautifully than I do.
9. I travel more than my friend does.
10. You have more money than I do.



### PART 3

Fill in the blanks with the comparative or the superlative of the word in parentheses ( ). Add *the* or *than* if necessary.

**EXAMPLES:** New York is bigger than Chicago.  
(big)

New York is the biggest city in the U.S.  
(big)

1. Mount Everest is \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in the world.  
(high)
2. A D grade is \_\_\_\_\_ a C grade.  
(bad)
3. Johnson is one of \_\_\_\_\_ last names in the U.S.  
(common)
4. Tokyo is \_\_\_\_\_ Miami.  
(populated)
5. June 21 is \_\_\_\_\_ day of the year.  
(long)
6. The teacher speaks English \_\_\_\_\_ I do.  
(well)
7. Lake Superior is \_\_\_\_\_ lake in the U.S.  
(large)
8. Children learn a foreign language \_\_\_\_\_ adults.  
(quickly)
9. Some people think that Japanese cars are \_\_\_\_\_  
American cars.  
(good)
10. A dog is \_\_\_\_\_ a cat.  
(friendly)
11. Women drive \_\_\_\_\_ men.  
(carefully)
12. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ student in this class?  
(good)
13. The teacher speaks English \_\_\_\_\_ I do.  
(fluently)
14. A dog is intelligent, but a monkey is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(intelligent)

## EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. Form a small group of 3–5 students. Fill in the blanks to give information about yourself. Compare your list with the lists of other members of your group to make superlative statements.

**EXAMPLE:**

Susana has the most relatives in the U.S.

- a. Number of relatives I have in the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. My height \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Number of letters in my last name \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Number of children I have \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Number of sisters and brothers I have \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Age of my car \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Number of hours I watch TV per week \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Number of hours I exercise per week \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Money I spent today \_\_\_\_\_
- j. Distance I traveled to come to the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_
- k. Cups of coffee I drank today \_\_\_\_\_
- l. Number of miles I usually drive per day \_\_\_\_\_
- m. Number of movies I usually see per year \_\_\_\_\_

2. Work with a partner from the same native culture, if possible. Compare American men and men from your native culture. Compare American women and women from your native culture. Report some of your ideas to the class.
3. The manager of a company is interviewing two people for the same job: a younger woman (24 years old) and an older woman (55 years old). He can't decide which one to hire. Find a partner. One person (the manager) will make a statement. The partner will say, "Yes, but . . ." and follow with another statement.

**EXAMPLES:**

- A. Older people are wiser.
- B. Yes, but younger people are quicker.
- A. Older people have more experience.
- B. Yes, but younger people are more flexible.

4. Find a partner and choose one of the following pairs and decide which of the two is better. Write five reasons why it is better. One person will make a statement saying that one is better than the other. The other person will follow with, "Yes, but . . ." and give another point of view.

**EXAMPLES:**

- A. I think dogs are better pets than cats. They are more loyal.
- B. Yes, but dogs need more attention.

- cats and dogs
- big cities and small towns
- travel by train and travel by plane
- houses and condos
- spring and fall
- voice mail and answering machines



5. Pretend you and your friend are trying to decide where to go on vacation in July—to the mountains of Canada or to the coast of Mexico. Write a dialog presenting your reasons for choosing one place over the other.

**EXAMPLE:**

- A. Canada is cooler.  
B. Yes, but Mexico is more interesting.

**WRITING**

1. Choose one of the topics below to write a comparison:
  - a. Compare your present car with your last car.
  - b. Compare two cities you know well.
  - c. Compare American women and women in your native culture.
  - d. Compare American men and men in your native culture.
  - e. Compare soccer and football.
  - f. Compare your life in the U.S. and your life in your native country.
  - g. Compare the place where you lived in your native country with the place where you live now.
2. Write about the biggest problem in the world (or in your native country, or in the U.S.) today. Why is this a problem? How can we solve the problem?

**OUTSIDE  
ACTIVITIES**

Interview an American. Get his or her opinion about the superlative of each of the following items. Share your findings with the class.

good car: What do you think is the best car?

- a. good car
- b. famous celebrity
- c. good president in the last 25 years
- d. beautiful city in the U.S.
- e. good university in the U.S.
- f. popular movie at this time
- g. terrible tragedy in American history
- h. big problem in the U.S. today
- i. popular singer in the U.S.
- j. best athlete

## Internet Activity

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1. Using the Internet, find a site that compares cities. Compare any two American cities that interest you.
2. Using the Internet, find out about the city where you live. Find out:
  - the name of the mayor
  - the population
  - the annual rainfall
  - the coldest month
  - interesting places to visit in this city