

4

Adjectives

The fish with no name

The most **dangerous** fish in all the sea
 Is **bigger than** you and **fatter than** me.
 His teeth are **as sharp as** a butcher's knife
 And his tail is **as long as** a train.
 He's **hungrier than** a dinosaur
 But I cannot remember his name!



1 Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

- Are there lots of fish in the sea?
 Yes No
- The fish's tail is . . .
 longer than a train.
 the same length as a train.

G

GRAMMAR

REMEMBER! ↓

Comparative adjectives are to talk about the difference between *two* people, animals or things.

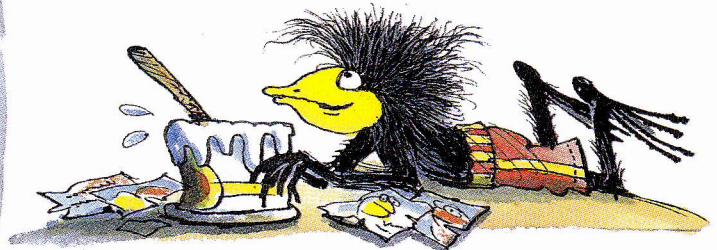
He's bigger than you. He's fatter than me.

Superlative adjectives are to talk about the difference between *three or more* people, animals or things.

*He's the most dangerous fish in the sea.
 This is the smallest boat in the harbour.*

2 Fill in the gaps with a comparative or superlative. Think very carefully!

He's the cleverest fish on the ocean bed.
 His brain is (large) than
 a giant's head.
 His eyes are (yellow) than the sun
 And his jaws are (wide) I've seen.
 He wears the (expensive) clothes
 And his shoes are always kept clean!



REMEMBER! 2

To make the comparative and superlative of most one-syllable adjectives: add **er** and **est** to the adjective.

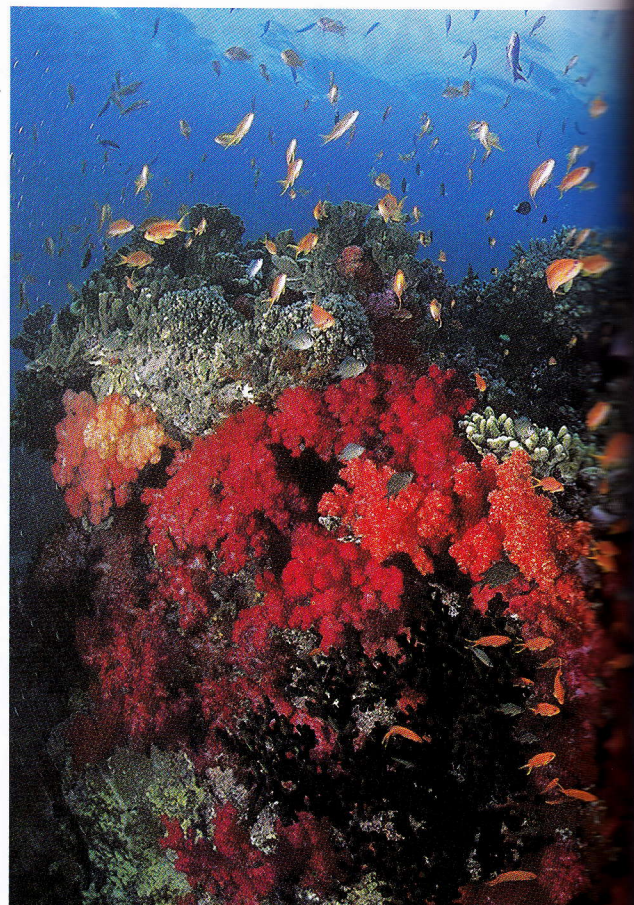
Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
small	→ <i>smaller</i>	→ <i>the smallest</i>
great	→ <i>greater</i>	→ <i>the greatest</i>
old	→ <i>older</i>	→ <i>the oldest</i>

But be careful when you spell these:

fat	→ <i>fatter</i>	→ <i>the fattest</i>
big	→ <i>bigger</i>	→ <i>the biggest</i>
nice	→ <i>nicer</i>	→ <i>the nicest</i>
wide	→ <i>wider</i>	→ <i>the widest</i>

3 Write the comparatives and superlatives of these adjectives.

- ▶ young *younger* *the youngest*
- 1 new
- 2 slow
- 3 quick
- 4 hot



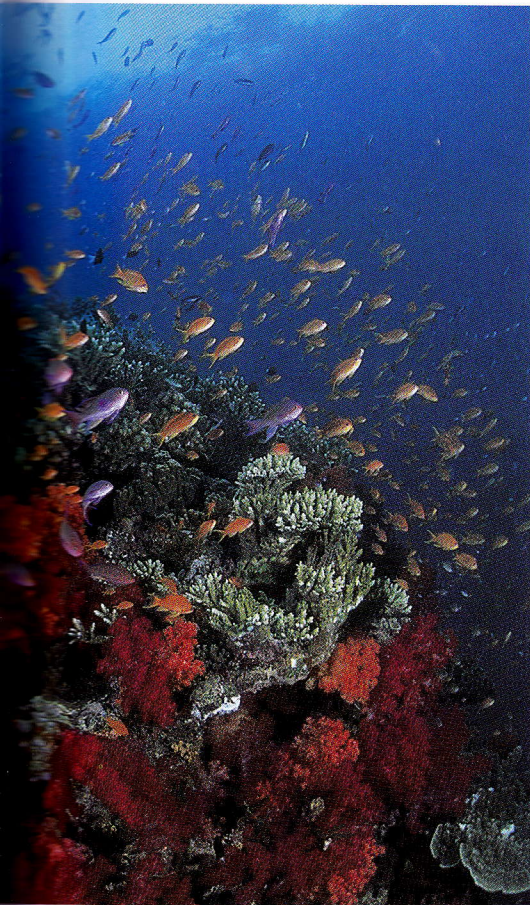
REMEMBER! 3

To make the comparative and superlative of most adjectives with more than one syllable: add **more** or **most**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
careful	→ <i>more careful</i>	→ <i>the most careful</i>
dangerous	→ <i>more dangerous</i>	→ <i>the most dangerous</i>
expensive	→ <i>more expensive</i>	→ <i>the most expensive</i>

4 Finish the sentences.

- ▶ These are *the most dangerous* (dangerous) fish in the sea.
- 1 An angel fish is (colourful) than a crab.
- 2 Coral is (beautiful) thing I've seen.
- 3 Lion fish are (poisonous) than jellyfish.
- 4 A tiger shark is (frightening) shark I've seen.



REMEMBER! 4

Some adjectives with more than one syllable end in **y**. Change **y** to **i** and add **er** or **est**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
easy	→ <i>easier</i>	→ <i>the easiest</i>
funny	→ <i>funnier</i>	→ <i>the funniest</i>
heavy	→ <i>heavier</i>	→ <i>the heaviest</i>

Some adjectives behave badly! You should know these ones but if you don't, learn them now.

good	→ <i>better</i>	→ <i>the best</i>
bad	→ <i>worse</i>	→ <i>the worst</i>
far	→ <i>further</i>	→ <i>the furthest</i>

5 Write the comparatives and superlatives of these adjectives.

- ▶ funny *funnier* *the funniest*
- 1 tasty
- 2 tidy
- 3 dirty
- 4 noisy

A

Sometimes you want to say that there isn't a difference between the people, animals and things that you're talking about.

They're the same. You can use **as ... as** to do this. Look:

He's as tall as I am. = We're both the same height.

His tail is as long as a train. = His tail is the same length as a train.

You can also use **not as ... as** to say that there is a difference. Look:

A jellyfish isn't as poisonous as a lion fish. = A lion fish is more poisonous.

He isn't as clever as me. = I'm cleverer than he is.

6 Rewrite the sentences. Use as ... as or not as ... as.

- ▶ We're the same age. (old)
I *'m as old as you are.*
- 1 We're the same height. (tall)
I
- 2 You're younger than me. (old)
You
- 3 We're both equally intelligent. (clever)
I
- 4 His writing is better than hers. (good)
Her writing



PRACTICE

7

a Complete the table.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
easy	easier	the easiest
	harder	
colourful		
		the most dangerous
heavy		
good		
	further	
noisy		
		the tidiest
shy		
intelligent		
bad		
	wider	
fit		
		the healthiest
difficult		

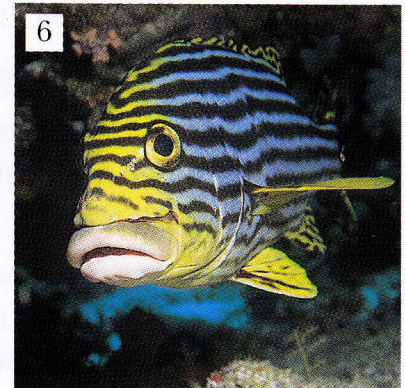
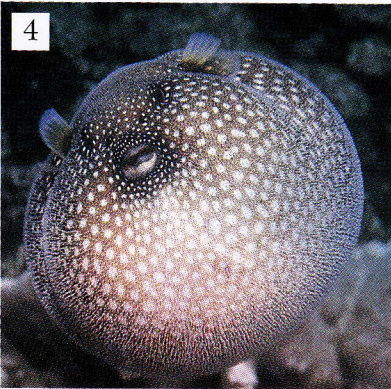
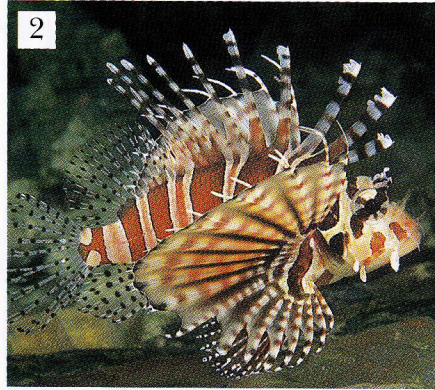
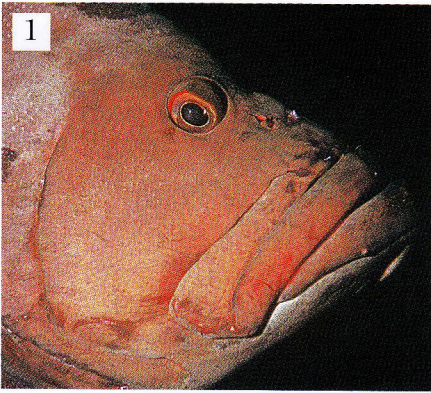
b Write five comparative sentences and five superlative sentences. Use the adjectives below.

big cheap ✓ colourful
 exciting funny ✓
 strange old nice
 interesting bad sharp
 thin

▶ Water is cheaper than lemonade.

That's the funniest fish I've ever seen!

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10



8 Look at the pictures of fish. Describe them using comparatives and superlatives. There are some adjectives below to help you.

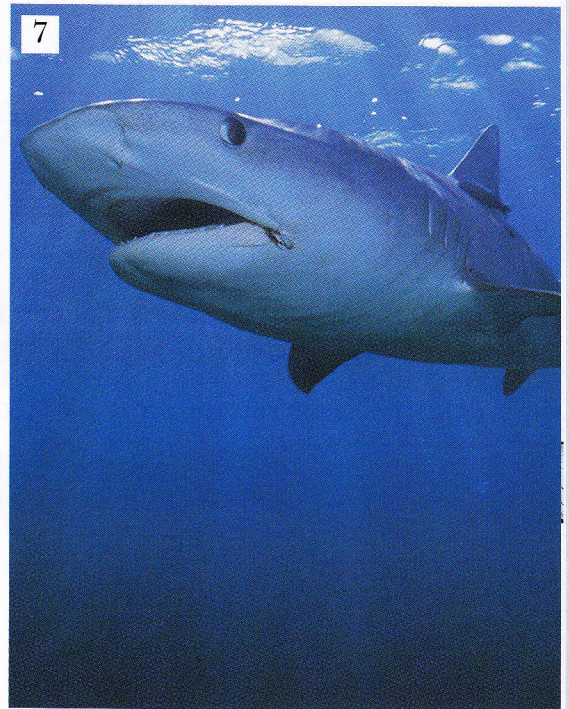
ugly stripey colourful sharp fat interesting
 spotty big dangerous thin long beautiful small
 short frightening

▶ Number 4 is the fattest.

Number 5 is thinner than number 6.

Number 1 is the ugliest.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10



9 Work with a partner. Do you remember the fish who's got teeth as sharp as a butcher's knife? Try to think of as many ways of comparing things as you can. Look at the examples below.

- ▶ eyes *His eyes are as round as a clock.*
His eyes are as blue as the sky.
His eyes are as bright as the sun.
- brain *Her brain is as big as the moon.*
Her brain is as small as a pea.
Her brain is as quick as an aeroplane.

Now try to do the same thing with some of these words: hair, nose, mouth, body, head, clothes, fingers, house, dog, cat.

- ▶ *That dog is as fierce as a tiger.*
- My cat is as black as the night.*

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10 Invent a person, an animal or an object. Describe it using **as ... as** and **not as ... as**. Write at least ten sentences.

- ▶ *My animal is as big as a dinosaur. It isn't as heavy as a brontosaurus but it's as tall as a house. Its neck is as long as the branch of a tree.*

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