Comparatives and Superlatives

Adjectives describe nouns. For a one-syllable adjective, add er when comparing two things and est when comparing three or more. For example:

Hot hotter hottest

Loud louder loudest

Old older oldest

When adjectives have two or more syllables, in most cases the comparative and superlative are formed instead by adding more and most to the basic adjective. Some two-syllable adjectives are exceptions. Some examples of comparatives and superlatives of multi-syllabic words are:

More entertaining

Most entertaining

More intellectual

Most intellectual

Some short adjectives have irregular forms, such as:

Bad worse worst

Good/well better best

Little less least

Much/many more most

Based on Langan, John and Janet M. Goldstein. *English Brushup.* 5th ed. New York: McGraw

Hill, 2011,