

Cheat Sheet: Comparative and Superlative of adjectives

To compare things we use the **comparative** and **superlative forms** of the **adjectives**. It's very similar to English.

klein (*small*) → kleiner (*smaller*) → am kleinsten (*the smallest*)
groß (*big*) → größer (*bigger*) → am größten (*the biggest*)
lang (*long*) → länger (*longer*) → am längsten (*the longest*)

We just add the endings **-er** in the **comparative** form and **-sten** in the **superlative** and change the vowel oftentimes to an umlaut.

There are some forms that are irregular.

gut (*good*) → besser (*better*) → am besten (*the best*)
viel (*much*) → mehr (*more*) → am meisten (*the most*)
gern (*with pleasure*) → lieber (*with more pleasure*) → am liebsten (*with the most pleasure*)
hoch (*high*) → höher (*higher*) → am höchsten (*the highest*)

In case we compare things that are different we use the preposition **als**.

Ich bin kleiner als du. (*I'm smaller than you.*)
Du bist größer als ich. (*You are bigger than I.*)

Notice that we say “**als** ich”, **not** “als ~~mir~~” or “als ~~mich~~”. We will use after **als** the nominative case.

In case things are equal we use the preposition (**genau**)so ... **wie**.

Er ist (**genau**)so klein wie ich. (*He is as little as I.*)
Du sprichst Deutsch so gut wie ich. (*You speak german as good as I.*)

Notice here again that we say “**wie** ich”, not “wie ~~mir~~” or “wie ~~mich~~”. We will use after **wie** the nominative case.

In English oftentimes you use **more** to build the comparative but in German we always can build the comparative adding the ending **-er**.

Die Schweiz ist teurer als Deutschland. (*Switzerland is **more** expensive than Germany.*)

Ana ist schöner als Petra. (*Ana is **more** beautiful than Petra.*)