

## Episode 035 – Grammar

### 1. Degrees of comparison of adjectives

Adjectives modify a living being, an object, an action or a condition. They often provide more information about a noun or a pronoun.

Adjectives can also be used to compare things. They change their form to show higher or highest degrees of a particular quality. There are three degrees of comparison: the positive, comparative and superlative.

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

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## 2. The positive and the comparative forms

The positive is the simple, most basic form of an adjective. To use it in a comparison you have to use other comparative phrases before and after the adjective, such as "so ... wie" ("as ... as"), to express that living beings or objects share a similarity or have the same level of a quality or qualification.

Other comparative phrases in German include "genauso ... wie" ("exactly as ... as"), "gleich ... wie" ("as ... as") and "nicht so ... wie" ("not as ... as").

The two beings or things being compared are always in the same grammatical case.

**so** + adjective in its basic form + **wie**

Person/object 1	Comparative phrase			Person/object 2
<i>Dr. Anderson ist</i>	<b>so</b>	<i>gut</i>	<b>wie</b>	<i>die anderen Professoren.</i>
<i>Professor Meyer ist</i>	<b>genauso</b>	<i>gut</i>	<b>wie</b>	<i>Dr. Anderson.</i>
<i>Niederangelbach ist</i>	<b>nicht so</b>	<i>schön</i>	<b>wie</b>	<i>Leipzig.</i>

The comparative form shows a difference between the living beings or objects being described. The degree of the adjective can be increased by adding the suffix **-er**:

Example:

*schlecht – schlechter.*

There are also irregular forms. The comparative form of "gut", for example, is "besser".

The comparative word "als" (than) comes after the adjective. In the comparative, the living beings or objects being compared share the same grammatical case.

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Comparative (Endung *-er*) + **als**

Person/object 1	Comparative		Person/object 2
<i>Harry ist</i>	<b>besser</b>	<b>als</b>	<i>Nick.</i>
<i>Dr. Anderson ist</i>	<b>schlechter</b>	<b>als</b>	<i>Professor Meyer.</i>
<i>Leipzig ist</i>	<b>schöner</b>	<b>als</b>	<i>Niederangelbach.</i>

## Higher, faster, more irregular!

Besides "gut" (good), there are other adjectives that have irregular forms in the comparative. Most of them end with the suffix **-er**, but their stem changes.

Take note of these adjectives because some of them are quite common!

Adjectives that take an umlaut: alt – älter, dumm – dümmer, groß – größer, hart – härter, jung – jünger, kalt – kälter, lang – länger, nah – näher, warm – wärmer ...

Adjectives with irregular degrees of comparison: gut – besser, hoch – höher, teuer – teurer, viel – mehr

## More:

Just like an adjective in its basic form, a comparative adjective can precede the noun it modifies, in which case it is inflected:

Examples:

*Ich habe **eine bessere** Idee!*

*Professor Meyer ist **ein besserer** Professor **als** Dr. Anderson.*

*Ich habe **einen schlechteren** Test **als** du.*