

3. DEFINITION.—Comparison is a variation of the form of an adjective to express the quality in different degrees.

Taller is called the *comparative* degree.

Tallest is called the *superlative* degree.

Tall—the simple form of the adjective—is called the *positive* degree.

4. RULE.—The comparative degree is formed by adding *ER* to the positive.

5. RULE.—The superlative degree is formed by adding *EST* to the positive.

<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Comparative.</i>	<i>Superlative.</i>
Sharp.	Sharper	Sharpest.
Grand.	Grander	Grandest

NOTE.—It is important to note that the addition of *er* and *est* sometimes causes the root-word to undergo certain changes of form.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Blue + *er* = not *blueer*, but *bluer*.

Red + *er* = not *reder*, but *redder*.

Happy + *er* = not *happyer*, but *happier*.

RULES FOR SPELLING ADJECTIVES.—I. When an adjective ends in *e*, the *e* is dropped before adding *er* or *est*.

II. When an adjective ends in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel, that single consonant is doubled before *er* and *est*. Red + *er* = *redder*; but sweet + *er* = *sweeter*, because the *t* is preceded by two vowels.