

# Writing Center

## Adjectives

An adjective modifies a noun or pronoun. An adjective indicates a quality or condition of the noun or pronoun. Usually, an adjective can be recognized by its function, its position, or its ability to be compared.

**Function** -to modify, provide detail about, a noun or a pronoun

Four green shirts belong to four favorite friends of mine.

**Position**-next to the noun or pronoun it modifies or in the predicate after a linking verb.

*Good* books entertain us.

I read a *good* book last weekend.

Sean considered the book *good*.

I thought it was a *good* book.

That book is *good*.

**Comparability**-three forms show the degree of the quality or condition

(1) The **positive** form is the plain form of the adjective:

dark, warm, brave, heavy, trustworthy, miserable, economical

(2) The **comparative** form is used to compare two items and is usually accompanied by the word *than*; the comparative form expresses a greater degree or quality. For most adjectives of one syllable, add **-r** or **-er** for upward comparisons and use **less** for downward comparisons. For most adjectives of two or more syllables, use **more** for upward comparisons and use **less** for downward comparisons.

Florida is *warmer* than Georgia.

Pat is *braver* than Chris.

I prefer *darker* shades of blue.

Georgia is *less warm* than Florida.

Kelly is *less brave* than Pat.

Kelly is *more trustworthy* than Chris.

(3) The *superlative* form is used to compare three or more items and is usually preceded by the article *the*. For adjectives of one syllable, add *-est* to the positive form. For most adjectives of two or more syllables, add **least** or **most**.

Kelly is *the most trustworthy* student in the class.

Pat was *the happiest* person in our club.

Summer is my *least favorite* season.

### **Irregular Adjectives**

Some adjectives are **irregular** because they do not follow the general rules. Instead, they form the comparative and superlative in special ways.

#### **Positive----- Comparative----- Superlative**

good -----better----- best

bad -----worse -----worst

many

or

some----- more -----most

much

or

little -----less/littler----- least/littlest