COMPARATIVES (see also Inside Grammar from page 337 to page 343)

One-syllable adjectives: \( \text{adj} + \text{er} + \text{than} \)

Ex: Lodi is cleaner than Milan
    Milan is bigger than Lodi

Two-syllable adjectives ending in consonant + \( y \): \( \text{adj} + \text{er} + \text{than} \)

Ex: Susan is happier than John
    London is friendlier than Milan

Two-syllable adjectives ending in –ow, -le –er can have two comparative forms (but more often they add \( \text{ER} \)).

Ex: Susan is cleverer (more clever) than John.
    Streets in Lodi are narrower (more narrow) than in Milan
    English is simpler (more simple) than any other language.

Long adjectives (with two or more syllables): \( \text{more} + \text{adj} + \text{than} \)

Ex: Milan is more crowded than Lodi
    English is more interesting than ancient Greek.
SUPERLATIVES

One-syllable adjectives (and adjectives ending in consonant + y): the + adj + est in....

Ex: Milan is the busiest town in Italy.
    This is the cheapest shop in town

Long adjectives (with two or more syllables): the most + adj + in

Ex: Calcutta is the most polluted town in the world (or: all over the world)
    Paris is now one of the most dangerous towns in Europe (or: all over Europe).
(It’s also possible to use the least + adj + in: ex: He’s the least friendly person I know.)

REMEMBER: the superlative is always followed by the preposition IN.
It’s followed by OF only when we talk about a small group of people.
Notice the expression “on earth”

Ex: He’s the cleverest boy in class.
    He’s the cleverest of the three.
    He’s the cleverest boy on earth

IRREGULAR FORMS:

GOOD          BETTER       THE BEST
BAD           WORSE        THE WORST
FAR      FARTHER/FURTHER The farthest/ the furthest
LITTLE       LESS         THE LEAST
MUCH        MORE         THE MOST

OLD has also got the irregular form ELDER/ THE ELDEST only used for family members
(ex: my elder/ eldest brother)

Quantifiers: we can use a bit, a lot, much to intensify the comparative form.
Ex: Milan is much bigger than Lodi
    Lodi is a bit cleaner than Milan
OTHER WAYS OF MAKING COMPARISONS:

(not) as + adj + as

ex:   London is as noisy as Milan
      London isn’t as dangerous as Milan
      Lodi isn’t as dirty as Milan.

Less + adj. + than

ex:   Lodi is less polluted than Milan
      Milan is less clean than Lodi

Notice some common expressions:
As soon as possible
As much/ many as possible
As early as possible
As quick as a flash

Special uses of comparatives:

To translate “sempre più...”
It’s getting darker and darker
Days are getting shorter and shorter.
Life is becoming more and more expensive

To translate “più....più..”:
The more you eat, the fatter you get.
The more you study, the better marks you get.

COMPARATIVES WITH ADVERBS:

• Regular adverbs: more quickly than......; the most quickly

• Irregular adverbs: fast     faster than    the fastest
                     Hard     harder than  the hardest
                     Early    earlier than the earliest
                     Late     later than   the latest
                     Well     better than  the best
                     Badly    worse than   the worst