

Dr. Shirley's Greek Courses

Grammar

Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives describe a Noun and "agree" with the noun (same gender, case, number). : "a **good** student."

Adverbs describe the action of a Verb. : "the student studied **well**."

There are three **Degrees of Comparison** of Adjectives and Adverbs :

1. **Positive or Simple** eg : good, quick, small
2. **Comparative** eg : better, quicker, smaller
3. **Superlative** eg : best, quickest, smallest

	simple,	comparative,	superlative
eg.	the quick cat, the cat ate quickly,	the quicker cat, the cat ate more quickly,	the quickest cat the cat ate most quickly

Adverbs are formed from Adjectives by changing the **-ος** to **-ως**

The Comparative is the same as the Neuter Nominative Singular of the Comparative of the Adjective

The Superlative is the same as the Neuter Nominative Plural of the Superlative of the Adjective

Positive	-ος	δικαιος -η -ον righteous	δικαιως righteously
Comparative	-οτερος	δικαιοτερος -α -ον more righteous	δικαιοτερον more righteously
Superlative	-οτατος	δικαιοτατος -η -ον most righteous	δικαιοτατα most righteously

When the syllable before the **-ος** is short, the **-ο-** often broadens to an **-ω-** :

σοφος -η -ον - wise, **σοφωτερος -α -ον** - wiser, **σοφωτατος -η -ον** - wisest

As in the case of English, there are some irregular comparisons. For many of these the Superlative is rarely encountered, and the Comparative is used when English would expect the Superlative.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
ἀγαθος -η -ον good	κρεισσων -ων -ον better (adjective)	—
εὖ well	κρεισσον better (adverb)	—
κακος -η -ον bad	χειρων -ων -ον worse	—
μεγας -αλη -α great	μειζων -ων -ον greater	—
πολυς πολλη πολυ many	πλειων -ων -ον more	—
μικρος -η -ον small	μικροτερος -η -ον smaller	ἐλαχιστος -η -ον smallest
—	μαλλον more	μαλιστα most