


Pronunciation Bank 6

Comparatives and superlatives


Comparative adjectives (and *than*) are weak. They have the vowel sound /ə/.
The choice of music online is better than in music shops.

The is also weak when it's used in superlative sentences. However, the superlative adjective isn't weak.

I go to town by bus – it's the easiest way to travel.
(easiest = /ɪ/)


- 1  **21 Listen to the comparative and superlative forms. Choose the correct sound for the underlined parts of the words.**

	/ə/	/ɪ/
bigger		
biggest		
oldest		
better		
easier		
furthest		


- 2  **22 Mark where the sounds /ə/ and /ɪ/ are in the sentences. Say the sentences. Then listen and check your pronunciation.**

- My cat is thinner than your cat.
- Berlin is the most exciting city I know.
- Rosa is better at dancing than me.
- This dress is the cheapest in the shop.
- Jasmine's skirt is prettier than Claire's.
- My bedroom is the smallest room in the house.

Vowel sounds: /ʊ/ /ʌ/ /ɜ:/ /u:/ /ɔ:/ /e/

- 3  **23 Match sounds in words 1–6 to sounds in words a–f. Listen, check and repeat.**

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| 1 /ʊ/ bookshop |  | a shorts |
| 2 /ʌ/ jumper | | b cook |
| 3 /ɜ:/ skirt | | c necklace |
| 4 /u:/ shoes | | d shirt |
| 5 /ɔ:/ sports shop | | e rucksack |
| 6 /e/ dress | | f boots |

- 4  **24 Circle the correct sounds. Listen, check and repeat.**

- | | | | |
|------------|------|------|------|
| 1 short | /ʊ/ | /ɔ:/ | /u:/ |
| 2 good | /ʌ/ | /u:/ | /ʊ/ |
| 3 small | /ɔ:/ | /ɜ:/ | /e/ |
| 4 hungry | /u:/ | /ʌ/ | /ʊ/ |
| 5 worse | /ɔ:/ | /u:/ | /ɜ:/ |
| 6 friendly | /ɜ:/ | /e/ | /ʌ/ |
| 7 further | /e/ | /ɜ:/ | /ɔ:/ |
| 8 lucky | /ʊ/ | /u:/ | /ʌ/ |

- 5 Choose four of the adjectives in exercise 4 and write two comparative and two superlative sentences. Then say your sentences to a partner. Remember to use the correct pronunciation for the weak forms.


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