

## 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 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 ① 22 Mark where the sounds /ə/ and /ɪ/ are in the sentences. Say the sentences. Then listen and check your pronunciation.

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

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

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

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

4 ① 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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