

Modifiers

Modifiers are words that give a specific quality or property to another word or phrase in a sentence.

Adjectives answer questions like "what?" and "what kind?" in order to describe nouns and pronouns.

Rome is a **nice** city.

Adverbs answer questions like "how?" and "how much?" in order to describe adjectives, verbs, and other adverbs.

Rome is a **very nice** city.

Comparative modifiers

Comparative modifiers are used to compare one thing to another. They are often followed by the word "than".

Add "-er" after most of the one-syllable modifiers and after certain two-syllable modifiers.

Fast becomes **faster**.

Happy becomes **happier**.

Add an adverb before certain two-syllable modifiers and before most of the longer modifiers.

Quickly becomes **more quickly**.

Generous becomes **more generous**.

Irregular modifiers take the comparative form by becoming another word entirely.

Good and *well* become **better**.

Bad and *badly* become **worse**.

Superlative modifiers

Superlative modifiers are used to compare one thing to two or more things. They are often followed by the word "of".

Add "-est" after most of the one-syllable modifiers and after certain two-syllable modifiers.

Fast becomes **fastest**.

Happy becomes **happiest**.

Add an adverb before certain two-syllable modifiers and before most of the longer modifiers.

Quickly becomes **most quickly**.

Generous becomes **most generous**.

Irregular modifiers take the superlative form by becoming another word entirely.

Good and *well* become **best**.

Bad and *badly* become **worst**.

To know more, see *Checkmate*, the *Oxford Learner's Grammar*, *A Practical English Grammar*, or similar writing guides.