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.