



COMPARATIVES & SUPERLATIVES

Comparatives and superlatives are words used to compare objects and people. Comparatives usually end in '-er' and mean that the object or person in question is, for example, bigger than something else. Superlatives usually end in '-est' and mean that the object or person in question is, for example, the biggest of all those being compared.

Comparatives

1. Monster!



Draw a picture of a monster on the whiteboard. Ask the child/ren to close his/her/their eyes. Change a feature and ask the child/ren to guess what has been changed. E.g.,

The mouth is bigger

The ear is smaller

The nose is longer

2. Guess it!



Ask an adult or child to choose an object, which s/he must keep hidden. This person then gives clues about the object, using comparatives; e.g.,

'It's smaller than a bus.'

'It's faster than a bicycle.'

'It's usually slower than a motorbike.'

Superlatives

3. Hoop-la



Put out at least three different-sized hoops. Ask your child to jump into the biggest or the smallest.

4. Objects



Collect together at least three of several items, differing in size. For example, you could have three socks, three teddies, three crayons, etc. Ask your child to find, e.g., 'the longest sock', 'the softest teddy', 'the thickest crayon', etc. To make the game more interesting, you could ask your child to post the requested item into a box with a hole cut in it – make sure the hole's big enough, though!

5. Obstacle course



Build an obstacle course using cushions, boxes, chairs, etc. (Remember that in order to use superlatives you'll need at least three of each item.) Ask your child to, e.g.,

'Jump over the smallest cushion.'

'Sit on the biggest chair.'

'Stand in the tallest box', etc.

6. Dressing up



Gather together some different-sized articles of clothing – remember you need at least three of each! Take turns to tell each other what to put on; e.g., 'the smallest shoes', 'the floppiest hat', etc.

Both

7. Goldilocks and the Three Bears



Read the book with your child then gather together three spoons and bowls of different sizes. (Probably a bit too difficult to gather together chairs and beds, but you could use pictures! (There are some at the end of these activities.)) Hold up one of the items and ask your child who should have it (i.e., if it's the smallest of the items, Baby Bear, if it's the middle one, Mummy Bear and if it's the biggest one, Daddy Bear.

8. Stand in line



If you have enough children around to do so, ask them to stand in a line ranging from shortest to tallest. If this is too hard (it might be!), ask them to stand in a line and then ask one child at a time to come out and look at the line to say who's tallest or shortest, etc.

9. Can't hear it!



Gather together a group of musical instruments or objects that make a noise, e.g., rattle, whistle. Rank the items in order of volume and talk about quiet/quieter/quietest and loud/louder/loudest.

10. Can't hear you!



This only works with a group of children: ask one child to whisper a question as quietly as s/he can to another child. The other child then has to shout the answer. Ask the group to tell you who was quieter and who was louder. See if the children can guess the question from the answer. Discuss at the end who was quietest and who was loudest.

11. Objects collection



Collect objects from home or the playground (e.g., leaves, stones, sticks, pencils, books, etc). Don't forget you'll need at least three of each item! Take turns to describe what you can see; e.g.,

'This stick's long, but this is longer.'

'This stone's the heaviest', etc.

12. Find something...



This works best with a group of children, but you can play it taking turns with your child. Name something you can both see, which is quite small. Then, either each child takes it in turn or you and your child take it in turns to name something which is bigger (that you can both see!). Once you can't go any further, the last one you named is the 'biggest'. You can repeat this with other adjectives, such as 'little',

'short', 'long', 'heavy', etc.

13. Pencil work



Ask a group of children to bring in a pencil. Discuss who has the longest, shortest, thickest, funniest, etc.

