

## Lesson 150: Irregular comparatives and superlatives

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The following adjectives have regular *and* irregular comparatives and superlatives. The irregular comparatives are more commonly used:

- **buono** | *good*

*regular comparative:* più buono = better

*irregular comparative:* migliore = better

*regular superlative:* il più buono = the best

*irregular superlative:* il/la migliore, i/le migliori = the best

- **cattivo** | *bad*

*regular comparative:* più cattivo = worse

*irregular comparative:* peggiore = worse

*regular superlative:* il più cattivo/a/i/e = the worst

*irregular superlative:* il/la peggiore, i/le peggiori = the worst

- **grande** | *big, great*

*regular comparative:* più grande = bigger, greater

*irregular comparative:* maggiore = bigger, greater

*regular superlative:* il più grande = the biggest, the greatest

*irregular superlative:* il/la maggiore, i/le maggiori = the biggest, the greatest

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- **piccolo** | *small, little*

*regular comparative:* più piccolo = smaller, lesser

*irregular comparative:* minore = smaller lesser

*regular superlative:* il più piccolo = the smallest, the least

*irregular superlative:* il/la minore, i/le minori = the smallest, the least

**Maggiore** and **minore** can also be used to mean *older* and *younger*, respectively, when referring to members of the family.

When referring to physical size, *grande* and *piccolo* are used:

- *Mia sorella è **la minore**.*  
My sister is the youngest.
- *La casa di Giovanni è **piu grande** della casa dei miei genitori.*  
John's house is larger than my parent's house.

The following adverbs have irregular comparatives:

- **bene** | *well*

*Scrivi **bene**.*

She writes well.

- **meglio** | *better*

*Scrivi **meglio degli** altri.*

She writes better than the others.

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- **male** | *badly*

*Ha giocato **male** ieri.*  
He played badly yesterday.

- **peggio** | *worse*

*Ha giocato **peggio di** me.*  
He played worse than I.

To form the superlative of the irregular comparatives above, add **di tutti** to the comparative forms:

- *Giovanna canta **meglio**.*  
Jane sings better.
- *Giovanni canta **meglio di tutti**.*  
Jane sings better than anyone.

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