COMPARISONS WITH ADJECTIVES

Remember . . .

An ADJECTIVE:

If it describes the noun: DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVE
- before the noun: Ex: “a smart student”.
- after the noun: Ex: “she is smart”
1. In English, **adjectives do not take an S in the plural**; they do **not change**.

- Hannele is a **40-year-old woman**.  
  (40-year-old is an adjective and woman is a noun. **BUT**: 'Hannele is forty years old' because 'years' is a noun here.)

- Her boyfriend has an **old car**. He has a **twenty-year-old car**. It's almost twenty years old.  
  (here year is a noun)
2. **Adjectives** are used in a certain order in English.

Where a number of adjectives are used together, the order depends on the function of the adjective. The usual order is:

- **Value/opinion:** delicious, lovely, charming
- **Size:** small, huge, tiny
- **Age/Temperature:** old, hot, young
- **Shape:** round, square, rectangular
- **Colour:** red, blonde, black
- **Origin:** Swedish, Victorian, Chinese
- **Material:** plastic, wooden, silver

**Examples:**
- a *lovely old red* post-box
- some *small round plastic* tables
3. Adjectives tell us more about a noun (function). They can:

- Describe feelings or qualities: He is a **lonely** man.
- Give nationality or origin: Pierre is **French**.
- Tell more about a thing's characteristics: A **wooden** table.
- Tell us about age: He's a **young** man.
- Tell us about size and measurement: John is a **tall** man.
- Tell us about colour: Paul wore a **red** shirt.
- Tell us about material/what something is made of: It **was** a **wooden** table.
- Tell us about shape: A **rectangular** box.
- Express a judgement or a value: Grammar is **boring**.
**REGULAR ADJECTIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Syllable: Young</td>
<td>Younger than</td>
<td>The youngest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Syllable + y: Easy</td>
<td>Easier than</td>
<td>The easiest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more syllables</td>
<td>More difficult than</td>
<td>The most difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less difficult than</td>
<td>The least difficult</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>Better than</td>
<td>The best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>Worse than</td>
<td>The worst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>Farther than (physical difference)</td>
<td>The farthest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>far</td>
<td>Further than (mental difference)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet</td>
<td>Quieter than</td>
<td>The quietest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which is the most usual way of ordering the following adjectives?

My sister has got_________hair.

- black, long, curly
- long, black, curly
- curly, long. Black
- black, curly, long

Some______________ornaments

- small, silver, charming
- charming, small, silver
- silver, charming, small
- charming, silver, small
Which is the comparative form?

"I think Marilyn Monroe was ________

Madonna"

- more beautiful than
- beautiful fuller than
- more beautiful fuller than
- more beautiful as

"CDs are much ________records, & nobody listens to tapes!"

- more moderner than
- moderner than
- more modern than
- more modern as