

Lesson 9: How much is it?

Lesson Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- ✓ Talking about prices
- ✓ Discussing preferences
- ✓ Making comparisons
- ✓ Buying and selling things
- ✓ Understanding basic and popular international currencies

When we go on a holiday, we have a tradition to buy some souvenirs for our friends and family. Some people prefer to buy them at a supermarket, but some other people prefer to go to the traditional market. Here are some phrases that you can use:

Asking for a price

To ask for a price we can use :

HOW MUCH + singular or plural noun (or with the verb COST or BE)

→ Money is uncountable noun, so we may use these phrases:

Question	Answer
<i>How much IS this dress?</i>	This dress is \$45
<i>How much DOES this cost?</i>	This costs £18.90
<i>How much ARE these shoes?</i>	These shoes are ₺100

HOW MANY + plural (countable) noun

→ Currency is countable noun, so we may say:

Question	Answer
<i>How many Dollars is it?</i>	This dress is \$45
<i>How many Pounds is this painting?</i>	This costs £18.90
<i>How many Liras does it cost?</i>	These shoes are ₺100

World Currencies

Now, let's take a look at these world currencies. Do you recognize any of them?

Country	Symbol	Name	Currency Code
Indonesia	Rp	Indonesian Rupiah	IDR
USA	\$	United States Dollar	USD
European countries (France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, etc)	€	European Euro	EUR
Australia	A\$	Australian Dollar	AUD
United Kingdom	£	British Pound sterling	GBP
Japan	¥	Japanese Yen	JPY
China	¥	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	CNY
South Korea	₩	Korean Won	KRW
Singapore	S\$	Singapore Dollar	SGD
Malaysia	RM	Malaysian Ringgit	MYR

Comparatives

When we go to the market, we also may do transactions with the sellers. During the interaction, we can bargain the things that we want to buy to meet our budget.

We use a comparative adjective to express how two things (or people) are different. To say that someone or something has a superior quality, size, or characteristic, we need to use **'more'**. To say that someone or something has an inferior quality, size, or characteristic, we need to use **'less'**.

- **More** for adjectives with more than one syllable.

If an adjective has two or more syllables, we add the word 'more' in front.

→ *Hotel Starry Night is more expensive than Hotel Sunshine*

→ *My mother is more beautiful than me*

- **-er ending** for short adjectives.

If an adjective has one syllable, or two syllables with -y as the second syllable, we add -er to create the comparative. For example:

→ *Your house is bigger than mine.*

→ *Taking the bus is cheaper than taking the car.*

→ *This box is heavier than that one.*

As you can see in the first example, if an adjective ends in a vowel and consonant (e.g. *big*) you need to double the final consonant. For example, *bigger*, *fatter*, *thinner*.

- **Irregular comparatives**

As usual, in English there are some exceptions and don't follow the rules above.

Here are some irregular comparative adjectives:

- **Good – better** → your cooking is better than my cooking.
- **Bad – worse** → Spicy food is worse than sour food for me.
- **Far – further** (British English) – Farther (US English) → Yogyakarta is further than Bandung from Jakarta.
- **Fun – fun** → Watching movie is more fun than reading.

- Using 'than'

When we compare two people or things, we need to use 'than'.

→ *Living in the city is better than living in the country.*

But if it's clear what you're referring to, it's also possible to make a comparison without repeating one of the things, and in this case you don't need to use 'than'.

For example,

→ *Living in the city is more expensive.*

Adjectives with one syllable, add: '-er' or '-r' + 'than'	<p>cold</p> <p>"In Canada, winter is <u>colder than</u> summer."</p>	Adjectives with two or more syllables, add: 'more' + 'than'	<p>ex-pen-sive</p> <p>"This book is <u>more expensive than</u> that book."</p>
Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y', change '-y' to 'i' and add: '-er' + 'than'	<p>hap-py</p> <p>"John is <u>happier than</u> David."</p>	Adjectives that end in a single vowel and consonant: double the final letter before adding 'than'	<p>big</p> <p>"Russia is <u>bigger than</u> Canada."</p>

Superlatives

We use a superlative adjective to show how one person or thing is different to all the others of its kind. For example,

→ *Palembang is the most beautiful city I've ever seen.*

This means that I've seen several cities and I consider Palembang as the number one in terms of being beautiful.

When you want to say that one person or thing is superior to all others in that group, you need to use '**the most**'.

- **The most** for long adjectives.

If an adjective has two or more syllables, we add '**the most**' in front to make it superlative.

→ *Cooking is the most difficult thing to do.*

→ *This restaurant is the most expensive in town.*

→ *Anna is the most intelligent student in class.*

- **-est** for short adjectives.

If an adjective has one syllable, or two syllables with –y as the second syllable, we add **–est** to make it superlative.

→ *Menu A is the cheapest dish here.*

→ *The pink dress is the newest dress she has.*

→ *The longest flight I took was 30 hours to Brazil.*

As with comparatives, if an adjective ends in a vowel and consonant (e.g. *sad*) you need to double the final consonant. For example, *saddest*, *fittest*, *hottest*.

- **Irregular superlatives**

The same adjectives that are irregular for comparatives are also irregular for the superlative form:

- *good* – *best*
- *bad* – *worst*
- *far* – *furthest* (U.K. English) *farthest* (US English)
- *fun* – *fun*

Here are some examples:

→ *Is this the best place to eat in town?*

→ *Yesterday's performance was my worst ever.*

→ *Alaska is the furthest state from Florida.*

→ *That was the most fun I've had in a long time.*

Adjectives with one syllable, add: 'the' + '-est' (or '-st')	<p>cold</p> <p>"January is often the coldest winter month."</p>	Adjectives with two or more syllables, add: 'the' + 'most'	<p>ex-pen-sive</p> <p>"This book is the most expensive book in the store."</p>
Adjectives with two syllables that end in '-y', change '-y' to 'i' and add: 'the' + '-est' (or '-st')	<p>hap-py</p> <p>"John is the happiest person I know."</p>	Adjectives that end in a single vowel and consonant: double the final letter before adding 'the' + '-est' (or '-st')	<p>big</p> <p>"Brazil is the biggest country in South America."</p>

Exercise

Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. summer / winter / hot | Summer is hotter than winter |
| 2. football / bowling / exciting | _____ |
| 3. Asia / Europe / big | _____ |
| 4. weekends/ weekdays / good | _____ |
| 5. cats / lions / small | _____ |
| 6. Andi / Sami / busy | _____ |
| 7. horses / cows / fast | _____ |
| 8. my uncle /my aunt / funny | _____ |
| 9. horror movie / romance movie / interesting | _____ |
| 10. the flu/ a cold / bad | _____ |
| 11. the sun / the moon / far | _____ |
| 12. I / my friend / tired | _____ |
| 13. tigers / giraffes / dangerous | _____ |
| 14. January / August / cold | _____ |
| 15. my grandpa / father / old | _____ |