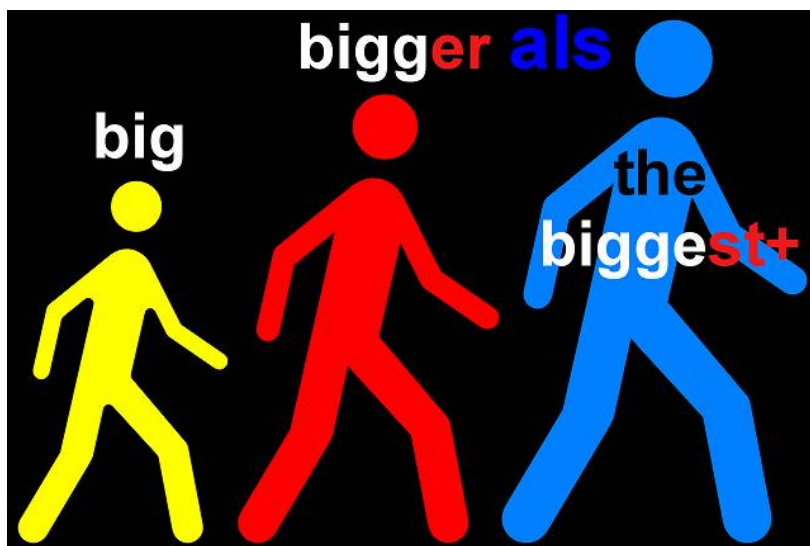


Cheat Sheet: Comparative Forms

Key Learning

To compare things, we use the **comparative** and **superlative** forms of **adjectives**. They are very similar to English:



klein (*small*) → kleiner (*smaller*) → am kleinsten (*the smallest*)

groß (*big*) → größer (*bigger*) → am größten (*the biggest*)

lang (*long*) → länger (*longer*) → am längsten (*the longest*)

We just add the ending **-er** in the **comparative** form and **-sten** in the **superlative** and often change the vowel to an umlaut.

There are some forms that are irregular:

gut (*good*) → besser (*better*) → am besten (*the best*)

viel (*much*) → mehr (*more*) → am meisten (*the most*)

gern (*with pleasure*) → lieber (*with more pleasure*) → am liebsten (*with the most pleasure*)

hoch (*high*) → höher (*higher*) → am höchsten (*the highest*)

When we compare things that are different, we use the preposition **als**:

Ich bin kleiner als du. (*I am smaller than you.*)

Du bist **größer als** ich. (*You are bigger than me.*)

Notice that we say “**als** ich”, **not** “als ~~mir~~” or “als ~~mich~~”. We will use the nominative case after **als**.

In case when the things we are comparing are equal, we use the preposition [**genau**]**so ... wie**:



Er ist [**genau**]**so** klein **wie** ich. (*He is as little as me.*)

Du sprichst Deutsch **so** gut **wie** ich. (*You speak german as good as I do.*)

Notice here again that we say “**wie** ich”, not “wie ~~mir~~” or “wie ~~mich~~”. We will use the nominative case after **wie**.

In English you oftentimes use **more** to build the comparative but in German we always can build the comparative adding the ending **-er**:

Die Schweiz ist **teurer als** Deutschland. (*Switzerland is more expensive than Germany.*)

Ana ist **schöner als** Petra. (*Ana is more beautiful than Petra.*)