

A faint, stylized illustration of two figures in a celebratory pose, holding hands and reaching upwards. The figures are rendered in a light purple color with a soft glow, set against a light purple background. The figure on the left has its arms raised, and the figure on the right has one arm raised and the other on its hip. Above their hands, there are several small, dark purple shapes that look like sparks or confetti, suggesting a moment of triumph or joy.

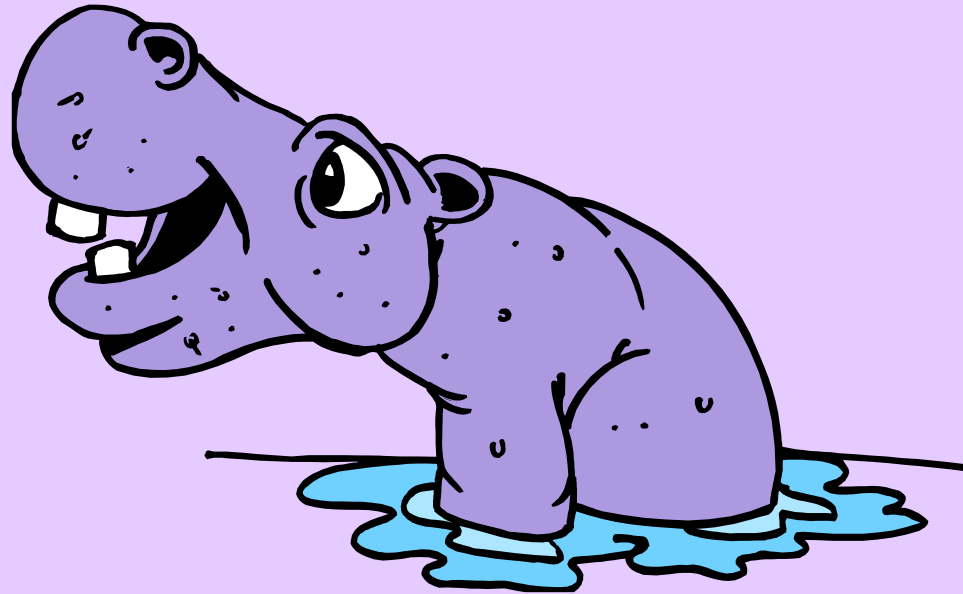
Positive, Comparative, Superlative Degrees

**Using Adjectives Correctly in
Relationships**

Start with an adjective.

large

This sentence shows the use of **large** in the *positive degree*.



This hippopotamus
is **large**.

But what happens when you want
to compare the **large**
hippopotamus to something else?



When you compare the **large** hippopotamus to another thing, you have to use the *comparative degree*. This means that the word has to change.

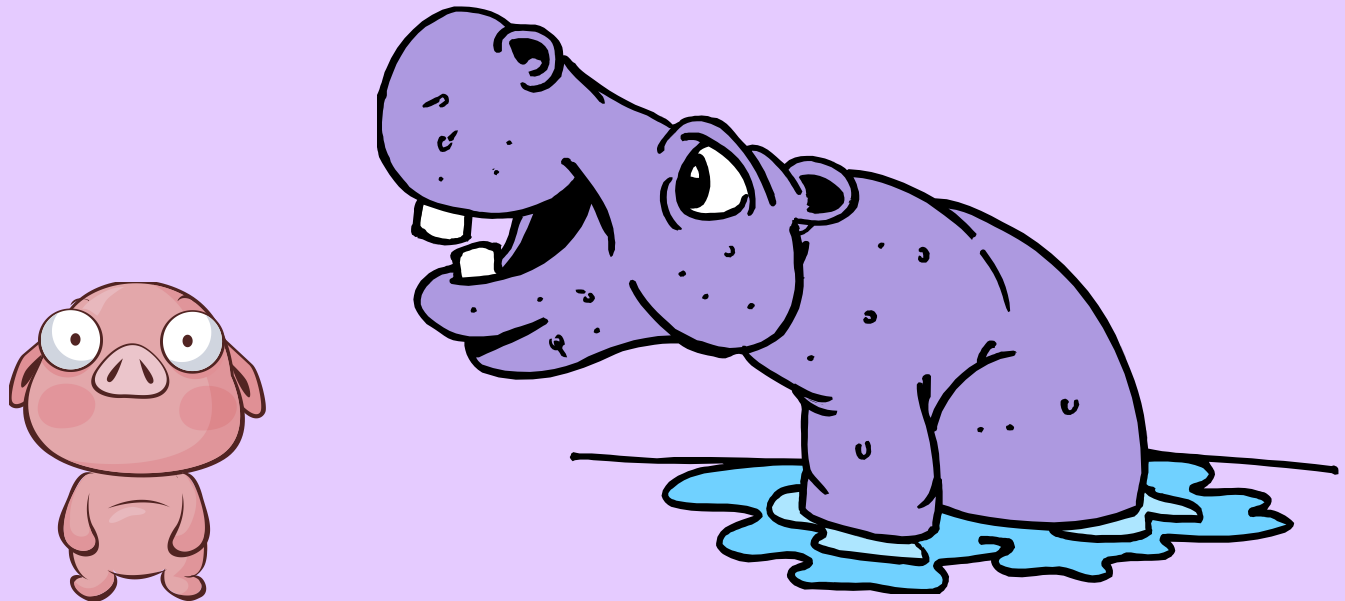


There are 2 ways that you can change “**large**” to the *comparative degree*:

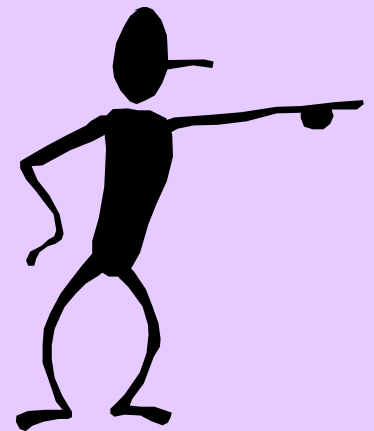
- Add “er” to the end of the word
- Add “more” to the front of the word

large + er = larger

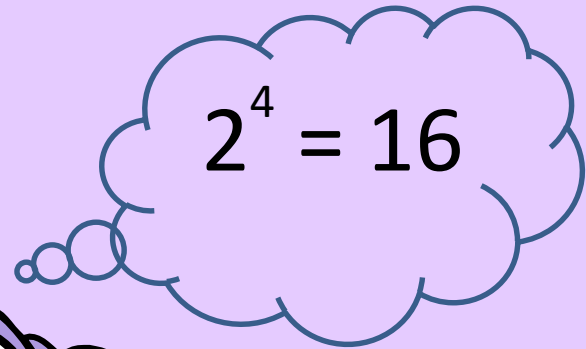
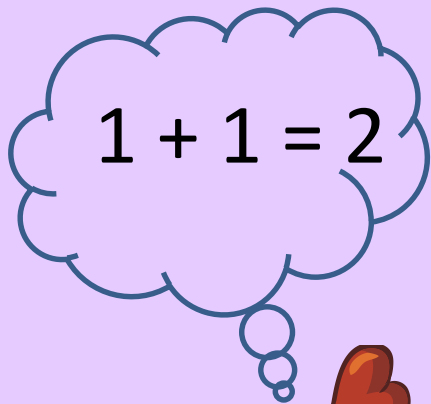
The hippopotamus is
larger than the pig.



Some adjectives, especially those with 3 syllables or more, use “**more**” instead of “**er.**” Here’s an example:



The hippopotamus is **more intelligent** than the chicken.



But what should we do if we want
to compare our **large**
hippopotamus with more than just
one other thing? What should we
do if we want to compare our **large**
hippopotamus to....let's say....3
other things?

We would then use the adjective in the *superlative degree*, and that means that our word would have to change again.

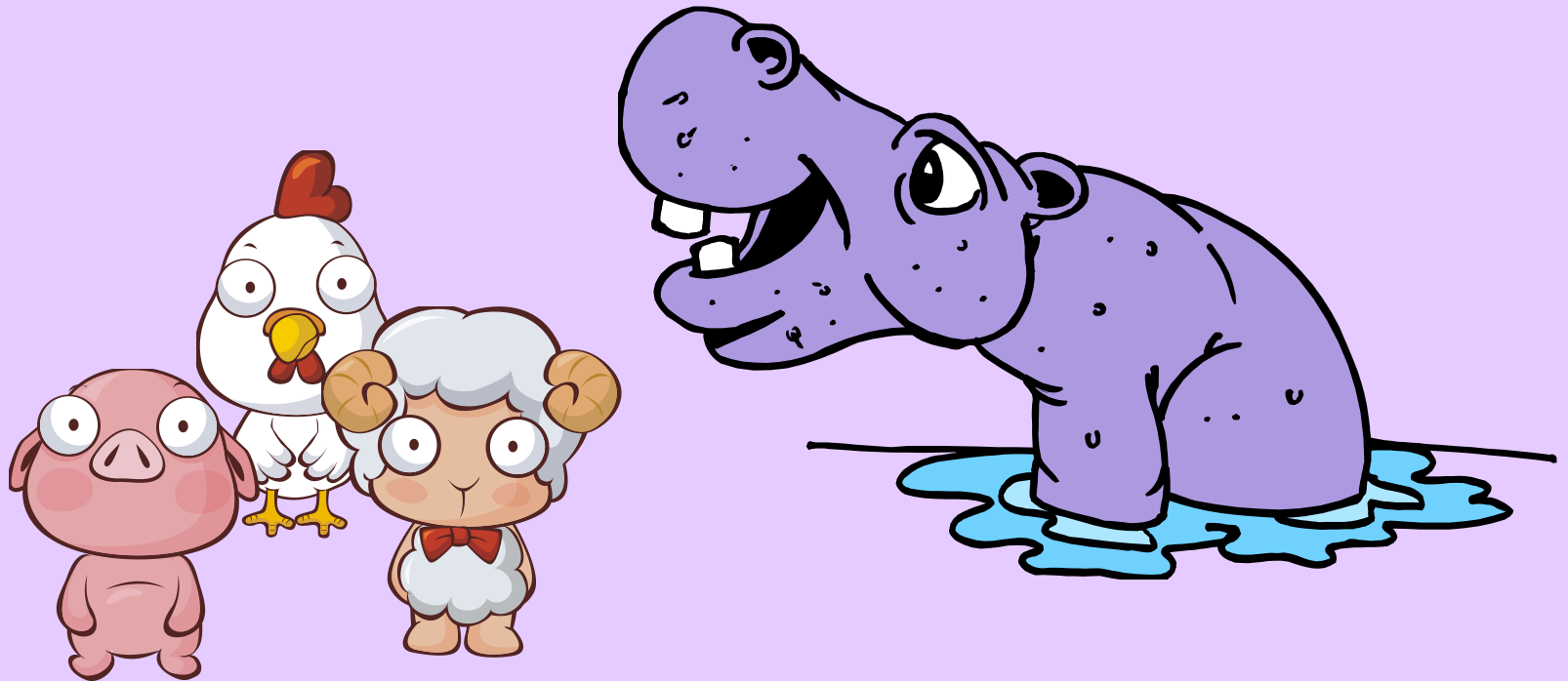


There are 2 ways that you can change “**large**” to the *superlative degree*:

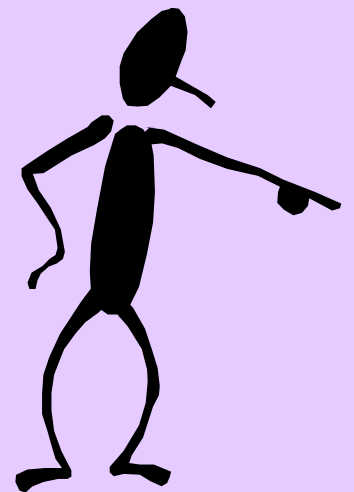
- Add “est” to the end of the word
- Add “most” to the front of the word

large + est = largest

The hippopotamus is the **largest** one in the bunch.



Here's an example where you would use "**most**" in front of an adjective.



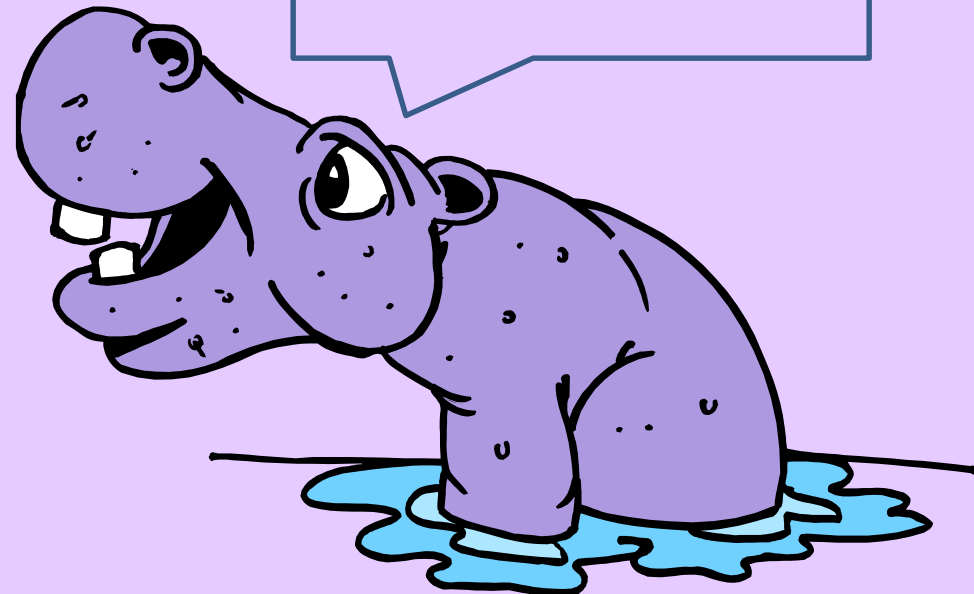
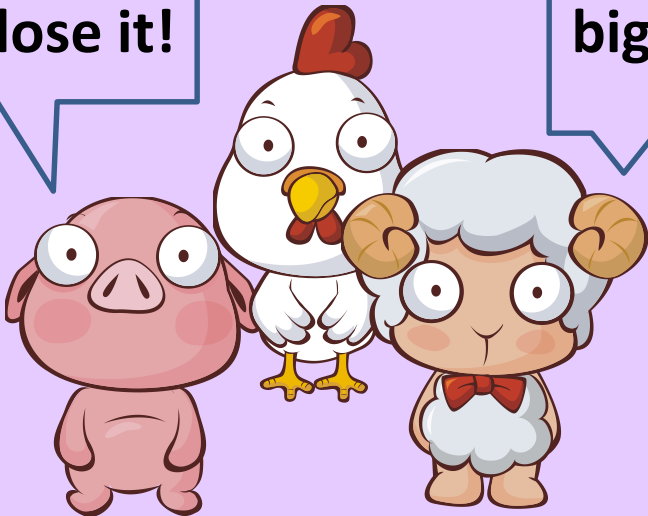
The hippopotamus is the **most courteous** animal of the group.

Move
it or
lose it!

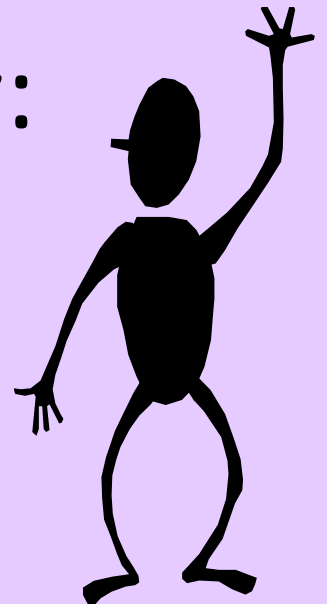
You're
outta
here!

Hit the
highway,
big guy!

May I please
be excused?



So, we have learned that we can use an adjective to show relationships in the *comparative* and *superlative degrees*:



- **larger** (comparing 2 things)

- **largest** (comparing more than 2 things)

- **more intelligent** (comparing 2 things)

- **most intelligent** (comparing more than 2 things)

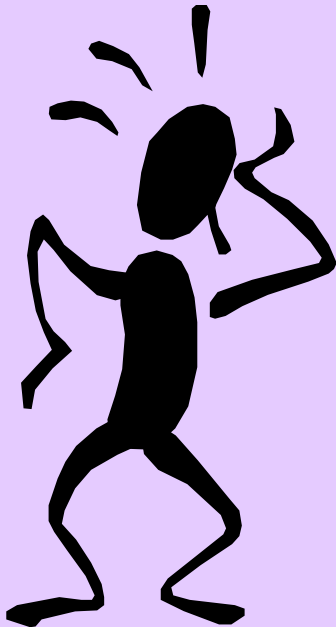
- **more courteous** (comparing 2 things)

- **most courteous** (comparing more than 2 things)

Like many things in the English language, there are some exceptions:



Some words change differently in the *comparative* and *superlative* degrees.



For example,
let's consider the word "good":

POSITIVE: **good**

COMPARATIVE: **better**

SUPERLATIVE: **best**



This grade is **good**.

B+

A-

B+

This grade is **better** than that grade.

The is the **best** grade of all.

A

Here's another example of unusual changes from *positive*, *comparative*, and *superlative* degrees:

POSITIVE: **bad**

COMPARATIVE: **worse**

SUPERLATIVE: **worst**



A cartoon illustration of a white, fluffy cloud character. The cloud has a black outline and is shaped like a large, rounded cloud. It has a small black hat on top and two black legs at the bottom, giving it a person-like appearance. The cloud is holding a large, white, rounded rectangular sign in the center of its body. The sign contains the text "Keep an eye out for them!" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a solid light purple color.

Keep an eye out for them!