

Caput XXII Grammar



Comparative Degree of Adjectives



Comparative Degree of Adjectives

* Just like adjectives in English, Latin adjectives have degrees of comparison

* smart

smarter

smartest

* tired

more tired

most tired

* light

lighter

lightest

Comparative Degree of Adjectives

- * These degrees of comparison are called
 - * Positive: **durus** hard
 - * Comparative: **durior** harder
 - * Superlative: **durissimus** hardest

Comparative Degree of Adjectives

- * The comparative degree is formed by adding *-ior* to the stem of the positive

longus	long	longior	longer
brevis	short	brevior	shorter
audax	bold	audacior	bolder

- * This applies to **all** adjectives, including those of both the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd declensions (there are not adjectives for the fourth or fifth declensions).

Comparative Degree of Adjectives

- * The superlative degree is formed by adding *-issimus* to the stem of the positive

longus	long	longior	longer	longissimus	longest
brevis	short	brevior	shorter	brevissimus	shortest
audax	bold	audacior	bolder	audacissimus	boldest

Comparative Degree of Adjectives

- * Adjectives that end in *-er* have a superlative ending in *-rimus*

acer	sharp	acrior	sharper	acrimus	sharpest
pulcher	beautiful	pulchrrior	more beautiful	pulchrimus	most beautiful
miser	miserable	miserrior	more miserable	miserimus	most miserable

Comparative Degree of Adjectives

- * Adjectives that end in *-lis* have a superlative ending in *-limus*

similis	like	similior	more like	simillimus	most like
facilis	easy	facilior	easier	facillimus	easiest
difficilis	difficult	difficilior	more difficult	difficillimus	most difficult
dissimilis	unlike	dissimilior	more unlike	dissimillimus	most unlike
gracilis	slender	gracilior	more slender	gracillimus	most slender
humilis	lowly	humilior	lowlier	humillimus	lowliest

Irregular Comparatives of Adjectives



Irregular Comparatives of Adjectives

* For many adjectives, the comparative and superlative degrees are quite different from the positive. Some are irregular in both English and Latin.

* good	better	best
* bad	worse	worst
* much	more	most

Irregular Comparatives of Adjectives

- * In the first group of adjectives, the stem of the comparative and superlative degrees are not the same as the stem of the positive

bonus	good	melior	better	optimus	best
malus	bad	peior	worse	pessimus	worst
magnus	great	maior	greater	maximus	greatest
parvus	small	minor	smaller	minimus	smallest
multus	much	plus	more	plurimus	most

Irregular Comparatives of Adjectives

- * In the next group, some comparatives and superlatives corresponded to adverbs derived from the same stem

extra	outside	exterior	outer	extremus	outermost
infra	below	inferior	lower	infimus	lowest
supra	above	superior	higher	supremus, summus	highest
post	after	posterior	latter	postremus	last
intra	within	interior	inner	intimus	inmost
prae	before	prior	former	primus	first
prope	near	propior	nearer	proximus	next
ultra	beyond	ulterior	farther	ultimus	farthest

- * The first four do have positive adjectives, but they are rare and more common in the plural (*superi*, ‘the gods above’).

Irregular Comparatives of Adjectives

- * Adjectives ending in *-eus* and *-ius* form the comparative by adding *magis*, 'more', and the superlative by adding *maxime*, 'most'.

idoneus	fit	magis idoneus	maxime idoneus
dubius	doubtful	magis dubius	maxime dubius

Declension of the Comparative and Superlative



Declension of the Comparative and Superlative

- * The comparative ending *-ior* is declined like a third declension adjective of two terminations, but the ablative singular ends in *-e* and the genitive plural in *-um*.

	Singular		Plural	
	M and F	N	M and F	N
	melior, better			
Nom	melior	melius	meliores	meliora
Gen	melioris		meliorum	
Dat	meliori		melioribus	
Acc	melio re m	melius	meliores (-is)	meliora
Abl	melio e		melioribus	

Declension of the Comparative and Superlative

	Singular		Plural	
	M and F	N	M and F	N
	brevior, shorter			
Nom	brevior	brevius	breviores	breviora
Gen	brevioris		breviorum	
Dat	breviori		brevioribus	
Acc	breviorem	brevius	breviores (-is)	breviora
Abl	breviore		brevioribus	

Declension of the Comparative and Superlative

	Singular		Plural	
	M and F	N	M and F	N
	longior, longer			
Nom	longior	longius	longiores	longiora
Gen	longioris		longiorum	
Dat	longiori		longioribus	
Acc	longiorem	longius	longiores (-is)	longiora
Abl	longiore		longioribus	

Declension of the Comparative and Superlative

- * Adjectives of the superlative degree follow the same pattern as adjectives of the 1st and 2nd declension.

Singular			Plural		
M	F	N	M	F	N

pulcherrimus, most beautiful

Nom	pulcherrimus	pulcherrima	pulcherrimum	pulcherrimi	pulcherrimae	pulcherrima
Gen	pulcherrimi	pulcherrimae	pulcherrimi	pulcherrimorum	pulcherrimarum	pulcherrimorum
Dat	pulcherrimo	pulcherrimae	pulcherrimo	pulcherrimis	pulcherrimis	pulcherrimis
Acc	pulcherrimum	pulcherrimam	pulcherrimum	pulcherrimos	pulcherrimas	pulcherrima
Abl	pulcherrimo	pulcherrima	pulcherrimo	pulcherrimis	pulcherrimis	pulcherrimis



bonus, -a, um

melior, melius

optimus, -a, -um

amoenus, -a, um

amoenior, amoenius

amoenissimus, -a, -um





tacitus, -a, um

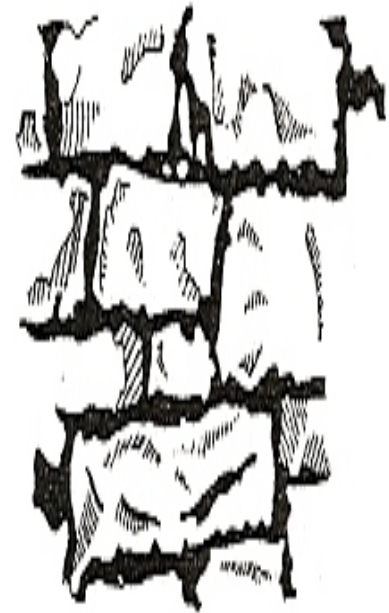
tacitior, tacitius

tacitissimus, -a, -um

durus, -a, um

durior, durius

durissimus, -a, -um





mollis, molle

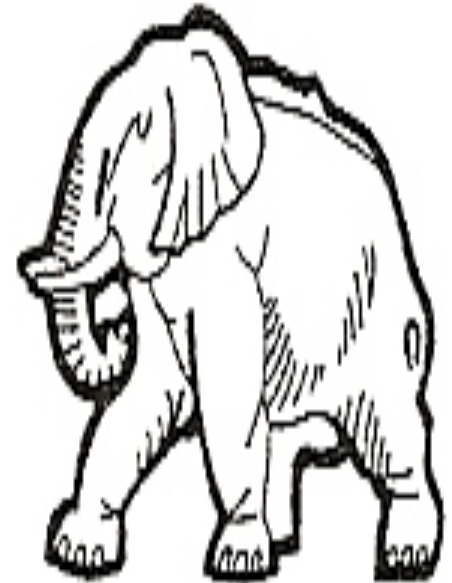
mollior, mollius

mollimus, -a, -um

magnus, -a, um

maior, maius

maximus, -a, -um





ferox, ferocis

ferocior, ferocius

ferocissimus, -a, -um

insanus, -a, um

insanior, insanius

insanissimus, -a, -um





dulcis, dulce

dulcior, dulcius

dulcissimus, -a, -um

frigidus, -a, um

frigidior, frigidius

frigidissimus, -a, -um





calidus, -a, um

calidior, calidius

calidissimus, -a, -um

malus, -a, um

peior, peius

pessimus, -a, -um



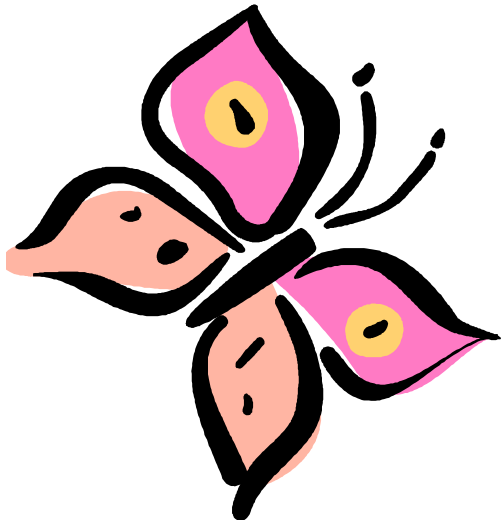
Comparative Statements



Comparative Statements

- * To make a comparative statement, Latin uses the a form of *esse*, a comparative adjective and the word *quam*.
- * (sg. noun) *est* (comparative adjective) *quam* (other sg. noun)
Marius est intellegentior quam Sullus.
- * (pl. noun) *sunt* (pl. comparative adjective) *quam* (other pl. noun)
Montes sunt altiores quam arbores.

* Quid animal est maior quam papilio?



* Quid animal est maior cum voce quam apis?



* Quid animal est ferocior quam leo?



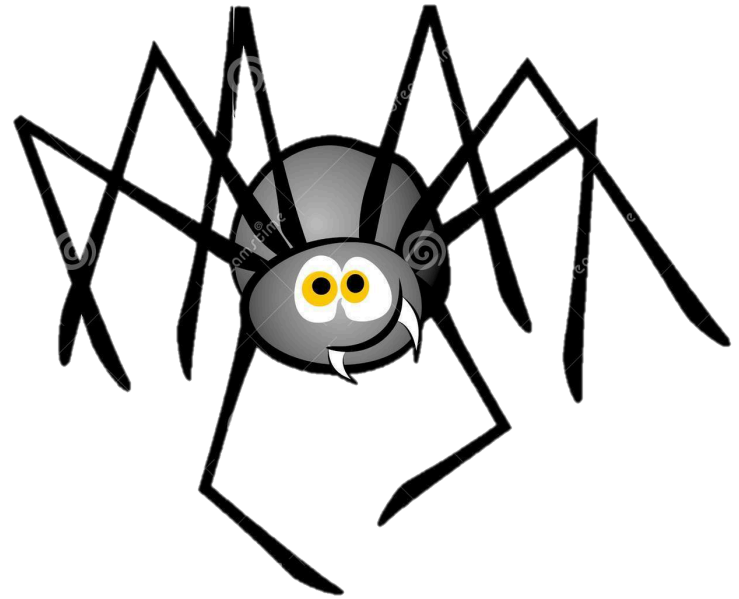
* Quid animal est minor quam cervus?



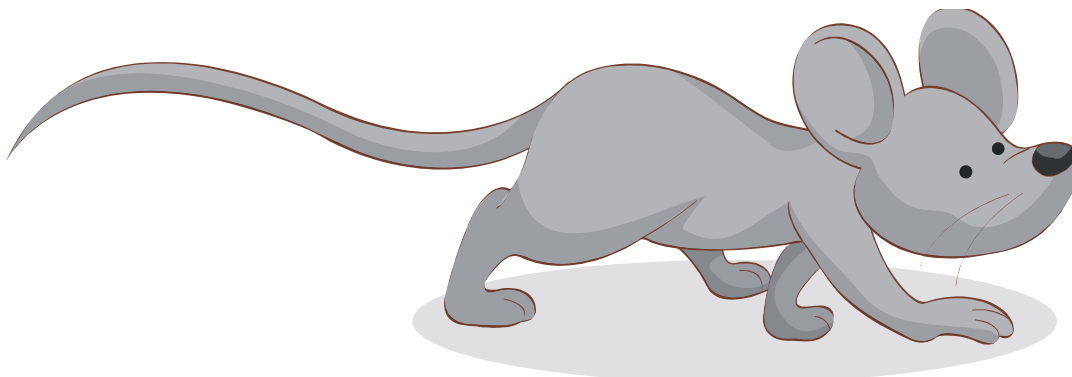
* Quid animal est pulchrior quam felis?



* Quid animal est melior quam aranea?



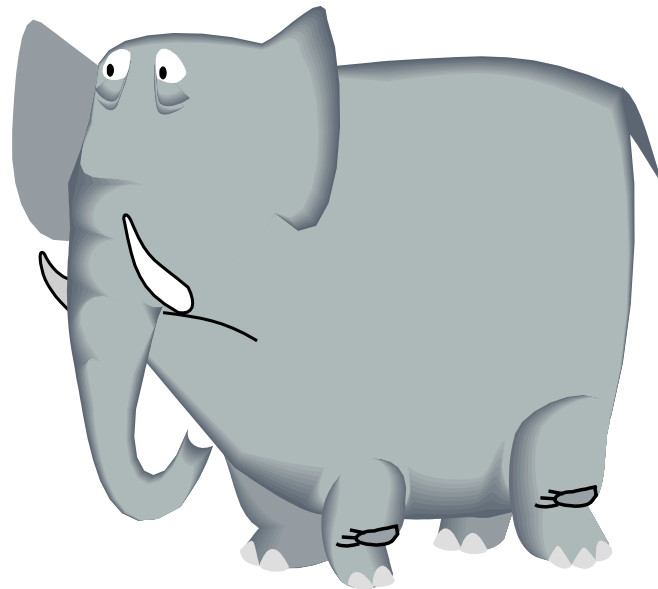
* Quid animal est tacitior quam mus?



* Quid animal est destinatio quam asinus?



* Quid animal est intellegentior quam elephans?



* Quid animal est insanior quam simius?

