COMPARATIVE DEGREES OF ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

Most of the time we use adjectives and adverbs in a way called the positive degree, for example, “It’s a hot day.” But we also use adjectives and adverbs to compare one thing to another thing: “It’s a hotter day today than it was yesterday.” In addition, we use adjectives and adverbs to compare one thing to other things: “It’s the hottest day of the year.”

There are three degrees of comparison:

- **Positive** = no comparison (for example, *good*)
- **Comparative** = one thing to another; used with two people, objects, or groups (*better*)
- **Superlative** = one thing to many others; used for three or more people, objects, or groups (*best*)

With these degrees of comparison in mind, underline the correct form of the adjective or adverb in each of the sentences below.

EXAMPLE: The faculty member who supports student activities the (more, most) consistently is Professor Dye.

1. Brannigan’s sailboat came about the (quicker, quickest) of all those entered in the race.
2. The yellow shirt compliments Corey’s complexion the (more, most) effectively of the two.
3. Brad often behaves (worse, worser) than his older brother.
4. Both women are good ballplayers, but Helen is the (more, most) aggressive outfielder.
5. The twin who works (harder, hardest) at whatever he does is Mitchel.
6. Loretta is the (older, oldest) of the two children.
7. The criticism was from the person in the club the (less, least) qualified to make it.
8. Their summer travels took them the (farther, farthest) of us all.
9. Last year’s president was (more, most) actively involved than this year’s president.
10. Though Jean and Louise both sing well, Jean’s diction is (better, best).
11. Of the ten children in that family, George is the (taller, tallest).
12. Pat got the (worse, worst) grade in the whole class.
13. Joe made (less, least) money than Nancy, but Harry made the (less, least) of all.
14. Although both houses are new, the one on Elm Street is (prettier, prettiest).