

Requests and Comparative Adjectives

Choose one of the requests below and ask your partner for that thing, explaining why you need it, pretending that they are your boss, someone in the HR department, etc. Listen to their reply and respond naturally, maybe continuing the conversation until you find an acceptable solution. Then switch roles and do the same.

Requesting

Explaining your needs

I/ We (really) need...

Can I/ we (have)...?

Could you (possibly) give me/ us...?

I'd be very grateful if you could (arrange for)...

... would be really appreciated.

a bigger meeting room for next week's meeting

a desk that is closer (= nearer) to the window

a faster decision about your proposal

a further off deadline

a higher salary

a larger screen (= monitor)

a later start

a more creative ad campaign next time

a more efficient company car

a more expensive office chair

a more flexible schedule

a more powerful computer

a more spacious office

a newer operating system

a shorter working day

a thinner laptop

an earlier finish

an easier to use company mobile phone

better integration between the different software used in the office

cheaper meals in the cafeteria

longer holidays

more competitive prices

more dynamic graduate recruits next year

more helpful instructions on how to use the new product

more intensive English language training

more interesting work

more positive predictions for the next 12 months

more practical feedback about my last presentation

more reliable wifi in the office

more stylish business cards

more up-to-date equipment

quieter air conditioning

Giving reasons

... because...
This is because...
...in order to...
... so that (I can)...

Responding to requests

Positive responses to requests

All right.
Okay, I'll...
No problem. Let's...

Negative responses to requests

I understand your problem, but...
I'm sorry (it's just not possible).
Well, the problem is...
You see, we don't (have)...

Suggesting other solutions

Why don't you... instead...?
What about...?/ How about...?
Maybe you could...

Responding to the response

Great. Thanks for your help.
Okay, thanks anyway.
Okay, I might give that a try.

Ask about anything you don't understand above, each time talking about what you would suggest or agree to if you received that request.

Comparative and superlative grammar presentation

Without looking above for now, put the comparative form of the adjectives on the next page into the space given. There is no need to write anything in the last column yet.

Hint: The adjectives are arranged by how the comparative form is made, so make sure they are all made the same way in each section.

Check your answers with the previous page. Note that they are in a different order there. What is the rule in each of the sections above?

Make rules for these kinds of adjectives:

- One syllable (= very short words, with one vowel sound)
- One syllable with one short vowel sound then one consonant
- Three or more syllables (= long words)
- Two syllables
- Ending in "-y"

What are the (very similar) rules for making superlative forms ("the most...", "the... est", etc)? Write the superlative forms in the right hand column below.



Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
cheap	_____ than	the _____
close	_____ than	the _____
fast	_____ than	the _____
high	_____ than	the _____
large	_____ than	the _____
late	_____ than	the _____
long	_____ than	the _____
near	_____ than	the _____
new	_____ than	the _____
quiet	_____ than	the _____
short	_____ than	the _____
big	_____ than	the _____
thin	_____ than	the _____
early	_____ than	the _____
easy	_____ than	the _____
competitive	_____ than	the _____
creative	_____ than	the _____
dynamic	_____ than	the _____
efficient	_____ than	the _____
expensive	_____ than	the _____
flexible	_____ than	the _____
helpful	_____ than	the _____
intensive	_____ than	the _____
interesting	_____ than	the _____
positive	_____ than	the _____
powerful	_____ than	the _____
practical	_____ than	the _____
reliable	_____ than	the _____
spacious	_____ than	the _____
stylish	_____ than	the _____
up-to-date	_____ than	the _____
far	_____ than	the _____
good	_____ than	the _____