

## Chapter 52

### Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs

#### 52.1 Adjectives and Adverbs have three degrees - Positive, Comparative, Superlative.

In English, the Comparative is often made by adding -er to the Positive, and the Superlative by adding -est to the Positive.

e.g.	Positive the <b>big</b> dog the dog barked <b>loudly</b>	Comparative the <b>bigger</b> dog the dog barked <b>louder</b>	Superlative the <b>biggest</b> dog the dog barked <b>loudest</b>
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In Greek, the usual endings are

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Adjectives :	STEM-ος, -η, -ον	STEM-οτερος, -οτερα, -οτερον	STEM-οτατος, -οτατη, -οτατον
Adverbs :	STEM-ως	STEM-οτερον	STEM-οτατα

Note that the comparative adverb is the same as the neuter singular form of the comparative adjective, and the superlative adverb has the same form as the neuter plural superlative adjective. Sometimes Greek will use a comparative where English would use a superlative.

e.g.	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
abundant	περισσος	περισσοτερος	(περισσοτατος)
abundantly	περισσως	περισσοτερον or περισσοτερως	(περισσοτατα)
wise	σοφος	σοφωτερος	(σοφωτατος)
aged	πρεσβυτης	πρεσβυτερος	-

**Practice** - until you can read and translate easily

1. τότε πορευεται και παραλαμβανει μεθ' εαυτου επτα ετερα πνευματα πονηροτερα εαυτου. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself. (*Matt. 12:45*)
2. το μωρον του θεου σοφωτερον των ανθρωπων εστιν, και το ασθενες του θεου ισχυροτερον των ανθρωπων. The foolishness of God is wiser (than that) of men, and the weakens of God (is) stronger (than that) of men. (*1 Cor. 1:25*)
3. περισσοτερον αυτων παντων εκοπιασα. I labored more abundantly than all of them (*1 Cor. 15:10*)
4. νυν γαρ εγγυτερον ημων η σωτερια η οτε επιστευσαμεν. For now our salvation (is) nearer than when we (first) believed. (*Rom. 13:11*)
5. αυτος εβαλεν αυτους εις την εσωτεραν φυλακην. He threw them into the inner prison. (*see Acts 16:24*)
6. υστερον δε παντων απεθανεν η γυνη. Last of all the woman died. (*Matt. 22:27*)
7. τολμηροτερον δε εγραψα υμιν . . . I wrote more boldly to you . . . (*Rom. 15:15*)
8. ο Χριστος κατεβη εις τα κατωτερα μερη της γης. Christ went down into the lower parts of the earth. (*see Eph. 4:9*)
9. οι υιοι του αιωνος τουτου φρονιμωτεροι υπερ τους υιους του φωτος εις την γενεαν την εαυτων εισιν. The sons of this age are more practical than the sons of light in their generation. (*Luke 16:8*)
10. ο δε επισω μου ερχομενος ισχυροτερος μου εστιν. But the one coming after me is mightier than me. (*Matt. 3:11*)

## 52.2 Irregular Comparisons

As in English there are some irregular comparatives and superlatives, e.g. good, better, best (adjective) and well, better, best (adverb) so also in Greek. The following should be learned.

Words in parentheses do not occur in the GNT and need not be learned.

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good (adjective)	ἀγαθος	κρειττων or κρεισσων	κρατιστος
well (adverb)	εὖ	βελτιον or κρειττων	( βελτιστος ) κρατιστα
bad	κακος	χειρων	( χειριστος )
well (adverb)	καλως	καλλιον	καλλιστα
much, more	μαλα	μαλλον	μαλιστα
big, great	μεγας	μειζων	μεγιστος
small	μικρος	μικροτερος or ἐλαττων	( μικροτατος ) ἐλαχιστος or ἐλαχιστοτερος
much, many	πολυς	πλειων	πλειστος
before	προ	προτερος (former)	πρωτος (first)
swift, quick	ταχυς or ταχιнос	ταχιον	ταχιστος
swiftly, quickly	ταχυ or ταχεως	ταχιον	ταχιστα
high	ὕψος	-	ὕψιστος

κρειττων, κρατιστος are derived from κρατος, -η, -ον (powerful).

κρατιστος occurs as the Vocative κρατιστε in Luke's Gospel, as an address to Θεοφιλος, where it is used as a title "Your Excellency"

**Practice** - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|---|
| 1. λεγει οὖν αὐτω ὁ Ἰησους,<br>"Ὁ ποιεις ποιησον ταχιον.  | Then Jesus says to him, "That which you do,<br>do (more) quickly. (John 13:27)  |
| 2. . . . και λαβοντες ἐντολην . . .<br>ἵνα ὡς ταχιστα ἐλθωσιν προς αὐτον . . .  | . . . Having received a command that they<br>should come as quickly as possible to him.<br>(Acts 17:15)                                   |
| 3. ἔδοξε κάμοι . . σοι γραψαι,<br>κρατιστε Θεοφιλε . .  | It seemed (right) to me also . . to write to you<br>most excellent Theophilus (Luke 1:3)  |
| 4. νυν γαρ ἐγγυτερον ἡμων ἢ σωτερια<br>ἦ ὅτε ἐπιστευσαμεν.  | For now our salvation is nearer than when<br>we (first) believed. (Rom. 13:11)  |
| 5. και συναγεται προς αὐτον ὄχλος πλειστος.   | And a very large crowd is gathered (to) him.<br>(Mark 4:1)  |
| 6. ζηλουτε δε τα χαρισματα τα μειζονα.  | But desire earnestly the greater gifts.<br>(1 Cor. 12:31)   |
| 7. ὁ δε μικροτερος ἐν τη βασιλεια<br>των οὐρανων μειζων αὐτου ἐστιν.  | But the smallest if the kingdom of the heavens<br>is greater than he. (Matt. 11:11)   |
| 8. Τοτε ἤρξατο ὀνειδιζειν τας πολεις ἐν αἷς<br>ἐγενοντο αἱ πλεισται δυναμεις αὐτου,<br>ὅτι οὐ μετενοησαν.<br>( ἐγενοντο - Aorist, Third Person Plural, of γινομαι ) | Then he began to reproach the cities in which<br>the most of his (acts of) power were done.<br>because they did not repent. (Matt. 11:20) |
| 9. Δοξα ἐν ὑψιστοις θεω.  | Glory in the highest (places) to God.<br>(Luke 2:14)  |
| 10. και ἐσται ἡ ἐσχατη πλανη<br>χειρων της πρωτης.  | And the last error will be<br>worse than the first. (Matt. 27:64)   |

### 52.3 Comparison using **μαλλον, μαλιστα**

**μαλλον** (the comparative, more) and **μαλιστα** (the superlative, most) of **μαλα** (much) can be used with other adjectives or adverbs to make comparatives and superlatives.

Note also the idiom **ποσῳ μαλλον** as "how much", "how many", "how great", "how long"

**Practice** - until you can read and translate easily

1. Μακαριον ἐστιν μαλλον διδοναι ἢ λαμβανειν. It is more blessed to give than to receive.  
(Acts 20:35)
2. συν Χριστῳ εἶναι, πολλῳ μαλλον κρεισσον. To be with Christ - How much better!  
(Phil. 1:23)
3. . . . οὐκετι ὡς δουλον ἄλλα ὑπερ δουλον, No longer as a slave, but above a slave,  
ἀδελφον ἀγαπητον, μαλιστα ἐμοι, a beloved brother, most (beloved) to me,  
ποσῳ δε μαλλον σοι and how much more to you  
και ἐν σαρκι και ἐν κυριῳ. both in the flesh and in the Lord. (Philem. 16)

### 52.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. Οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι δουλοι του θεου του ὑψιστου εἰσιν. (Acts 16:17)
2. και γινεται τα ἐσχατα του ἀνθρωπου ἐκεινου χειρονα των πρωτων. (Matt. 12:45)
3. το μωρον του θεου σοθωτερον των ἀνθρωπων ἐστιν,  
και το ἀσθενες του θεου ἰσχυροτερον των ἀνθρωπων. (1 Cor. 1:25)
4. νυνι δε μενει πιστις, ἐλπις, ἀγαπη, τα τρια ταυτα,  
μειζων δε τουτων ἡ ἀγαπη. (1 Cor. 13:13)
5. Μακαριον ἐστιν μαλλον διδοναι ἢ λαμβανειν. (Acts 20:35)
6. τουτο δε παραγγελων οὐκ ἐπαινω ὅτι οὐκ εἰς το κρεισσον  
ἀλλα εἰς το ἡσσον συνερχεσθε. (1 Cor. 11:17)  
( ἡσσον, Hellenistic form of ἡττον - inferior, less )
7. οὐχι ἡ ψυχη πλειον ἐστιν της τροφης και το σωμα του ἐνδυματος ; (Matt. 6:25)
8. Ἀμην λεγω ὑμιν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιησατε ἐνι τουτων των ἀδελφων μου  
των ἐλαχιστων, ἐμοι ἐποιησατε. (Matt. 25:40)  
( ἐφ' ὅσον = ἐπι ὅσον = upon whatever )
9. ποσῳ μαλλον ὑμεις διαφερετε των πετεινων ; (Luke 12:24)
10. εἰ οὖν οὐδε ἐλαχιστον δυνασθε, τί περι των λοιπων μεριμνατε ; (Luke 12:26)

### 52.5 Writing Practice : Write the Greek several times, while saying aloud (Rev. 15:3-4)

Μεγαλα και θαυμαστα τα ἔργα σου,	Great and wonderful (are) thy works
κυριε ὁ θεος ὁ παντοκρατωρ,	Lord God Almighty,
δικαιαι και ἀληθιναι αἱ ὁδοι σου,	Just and true (are) thy ways,
ὁ βασιλευς των ἐθνων,	King of the nations.
τίς σε οὐ μη φοβηθη, κυριε,	Who shall not fear thee, Lord

### 52.6 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : Hebrews 1:1-4

In your Greek New Testament, read the passage aloud several times until you can read it without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate it.

πολυμερως	in many ways	( πολυς - many + μερος - part )
πολυτροπως	in various ways	( πολυς - many + τροπος - manner, conduct )
ἐθηκεν	Third Person Singular, Aorist Active of τιθημι - I place	
το ἀπαυγασμα	reflected brightness - radiance	( ἀπο - from + ἀυγαζω - I beam, irradiate )
ὁ χαρακτηρ	an exact mark, exact image	
ἡ ὑποστασις	confidence, essence, assurance, substance	
ἡ μεγαλωσυνη	majesty	
διαφορωτερον	Comparative of διαφορος - different (with reference to excellence)	
κεκληρονομηκεν	Third Person Singular Perfect Indicative Active of κληρονομεω - I inherit	

**52.7 Vocabulary to learn** - this includes some adjectives and adverbs that we have met in earlier vocabularies.

ἐλάχιστος	least ( adjective)
ἔσχατος	last ( adjective)
κρείττων	better, superior ( adjective, also used as adverb)
μάλιστα	especially, most of all, particularly ( superlative adverb of μάλα = very )
μᾶλλον	more than, to a greater degree, rather, much ( comparative adverb)
περισσός	above measure, abundantly ( adjective, also used as adverb)
περισσότερος	more, even more ( adjective, also used as adverb)
περισσότερως	even more, far greater, more abundantly, especially ( adverb)
πλεῖστος	most, very large ( adjective)
πλείων	more, many ( adjective)
πρότερος	former, before ( adjective, also used as adverb)
ὔστερος	later ( comparative), last ( superlative) ( adjective)
ὔστερον	later, afterwards ( comparative), finally, last of all ( superlative) ( adverb)
ὑψηλός	high, lofty, exalted ( adjective)
ὑψιστος	highest, most exalted ( superlative adverb)
χειρόν	worse ( adjective, also used as adverb)
ἐπαινέω	I praise, approve
ζηλόω	I desire earnestly ( <i>originally, "I have warmth"</i> )
ὀνειδίζω	I reproach, defame
ὑψόω	I lift up, raise up, exalt
ἡ πλάνη	error
το τάχος	speed , used as an adverb in the phrase ἐν ταχει - "in haste" = quickly
το ὕψος	height