



How to Compare Sizes in Another Language

KS3

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 11-14



3 min read

Comparing Things in Other Languages

When you're learning a new language like **Spanish**, **French**, or **German**, you'll often need to talk about how big or small things are. In English, we use words like "bigger," "smaller," and "biggest," but each language has its own special way of saying these comparison words.

Learning these **comparative** and **superlative** forms is one of the most useful skills you can develop. You'll use them in conversations every single day—when describing your house, your pet, your friends, or anything else!

The Three Levels of Size

There are three main ways to compare sizes in any language. First, there's the **basic adjective**—like "big" or "small." Then comes the **comparative form**, which you use when comparing two things: "bigger" or "smaller." Finally, there's the **superlative form**, which describes the largest or smallest of a whole group.

Think of it like stepping up a staircase. The ground floor is your basic word. One step up is your comparative (comparing two things). Two steps up is your superlative (the absolute biggest or smallest).

How Different Languages Work

In **Spanish**, you might say "más grande" (more big) for bigger and "el más grande" (the most big) for biggest. **French** works similarly with "plus grand" and "le plus grand." But some languages like **German** change the adjective itself—you add special endings called **suffixes**.

The exciting part is that even though the exact words are different, the pattern is basically the same across most European languages. Once you understand how one language does it, learning the next one becomes much easier!

Practice Makes Perfect

To get good at comparisons, start by learning a few basic adjectives and their comparison forms. Then practice using them in simple sentences. Try describing your bedroom compared to your friend's, or comparing different animals by size. The more you use these words, the more natural they'll feel.

Think of it like learning to ride a bike. At first it's tricky, but once you practice enough times, it becomes automatic and you don't have to think about it anymore.