

Irregular Adjectives: Good, Bad*, Far*

Irregular Adjectives (Part1): Good

A. The Adjective 'Good'

1. Using 'Good' to Describe Nouns

What Does Good Mean?

The adjective *good* describes a noun's positive quality. It means something is pleasant, enjoyable, or of a high standard. Think of it as a general word of approval. 😊

You use *good* before a noun or after a linking verb like *be*, *seem*, or *look*. It never changes form for singular or plural nouns.

- She is a **good** student.
- This soup tastes **good**.
- They are **good** friends.

Common Noun Categories with Good

Good works with many types of nouns. Here are the most frequent categories:

1. People and roles
 - a good teacher
 - a good doctor
 - a good listener
2. Experiences and events
 - a good movie
 - a good party
 - a good holiday
3. Objects and tools
 - a good phone

- a good knife
- a good book

4. Abstract ideas

- a good idea
- good advice
- a good reason

Good is an irregular adjective: its comparative is *better* and its superlative is *best*. But in this chapter, we focus only on the base form.

Position in a Sentence

Place *good* in two main positions:

- Before a noun (attributive position): a **good** restaurant 🍽️
- After a linking verb (predicative position): The restaurant is **good**.

Never say a restaurant good. In English, adjectives almost always come before the noun they describe.

Distinguishing Good from Well

A common confusion for A2 learners is mixing *good* and *well*. Remember this simple rule:

- *Good* is an adjective — it describes a noun.
- *Well* is usually an adverb — it describes an action.

Compare:

- She is a **good** cook. (describes the person)
- She cooks **well**. (describes the action)

Exception: *Well* can be an adjective only when talking about health. I feel well means "I am not sick."

Intensifying Good

You can make *good* stronger or softer with adverbs:

- very good
- really good
- quite good
- pretty good (informal)

These adverbs go directly before *good*:

- That's a very **good** question.
- The film was really **good**.

Common Expressions with Good

Learning fixed phrases helps you sound more natural:

- Good morning / afternoon / evening
- Good luck! 🍀
- Good job! (to praise someone)
- a good time (an enjoyable moment)
- good news

Practice Examples

Try identifying the noun that *good* describes in each sentence:

1. We had a **good** time at the beach.
2. This is a **good** opportunity for you.
3. The weather looks **good** today.
4. He gave me some **good** advice.

Quick Self-Check

Ask yourself these questions when using *good*:

- Am I describing a noun or an action? (If noun → good)
- Is the adjective before the noun or after a linking verb?
- Am I confusing *good* with *well*?

Mastering the base form *good* builds the foundation for understanding its comparative and superlative forms later. Use it confidently to express positive opinions about people, places, things, and ideas.

2. Introducing 'Better' for Comparisons

Understanding the Comparative Form

When you want to show a difference between two things, you need a comparative adjective. For most short adjectives, you simply add -er. But *good* is irregular — its comparative form is **better**. 🍀

The word *better* is the irregular comparative form of *good*, used to indicate a higher quality or more favorable condition when contrasting two items.

When to Use 'Better'

Use *better* whenever you compare exactly two nouns. These nouns can be people, places, objects, or even abstract ideas.

- This coffee is good, but the espresso is **better**. ☕
- I feel **better** today after resting.
- Your second draft is much **better**.

Common Patterns with 'Better'

1. *Better* + noun: She has a **better** idea for the project.
2. Verb + *better*: He sings **better** than I do.
3. Much / a lot + *better*: The new phone is a lot **better**.

Avoiding Common Mistakes

Beginners often mix up *good* and *well*. Remember: *good* is an adjective, *well* is usually an adverb. However, *better* can be the comparative for both!

- She is a **good** cook. → She is a **better** cook.
- She cooks **well**. → She cooks **better**.

A frequent error is using *more good*. This is always incorrect. Never say “more good” — the only correct form is **better**.

Practice in Context

Let's solidify this with real-life scenarios. Imagine you're in Mexico City choosing between two taquerías 🌮:

- Taquería Los Güeros is good, but El Califa is **better**.
- The salsa verde is **better** here than at the other place.

3. Comparing Two Things with 'Better Than'

Building the Comparison Structure

To compare two things using *better*, you need a simple pattern: A + is/are + **better than** + B.

- My new phone is **better than** my old one.
- These cookies are **better than** those cakes.
- Reading is **better than** watching TV before bed.

Common Sentence Patterns

1. Add an adverb before *better*: This restaurant is much **better than** the café.
2. Include a reason after the comparison: Walking is **better than** driving because it's healthier.

Avoiding Typical Mistakes

- ✗ This book is more better than that one.
- ✔ This book is **better than** that one.
- ✗ Coffee is better that tea.
- ✔ Coffee is **better than** tea.

Real-World Practice Examples

- Tacos al pastor are **better than** plain chicken tacos. 🌮
 - Studying in the morning is **better than** studying late at night.
 - This bus route is **better than** the metro for reaching the museum.
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4. Forming Sentences with 'Better'

Building Blocks of 'Better'

The word *better* is the comparative form of *good*. You use it when you compare two things and one has a higher quality.

- This coffee is **better**.
- Her idea was **better**.
- The weather today is **better**.

Adding the Second Item with 'Than'

- Your Spanish pronunciation is **better than** mine.
- This restaurant is **better than** the one downtown.
- Cooking at home is **better than** ordering tacos every night. 🌮

Using 'Better' with Action Verbs

- I feel **better** after drinking a glass of water.
- This sauce tastes **better** with a pinch of lime.
- She sings **better than** her brother.

Expressing Preference with 'Had Better'

A special construction, *had better*, gives strong advice or a warning.

- You'd **better** study for the exam.
- We'd **better** leave now; the metro closes at midnight.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Double comparatives: Never use *more* with *better*.
 2. Subject pronouns after 'than'.
 3. Confusing *good* and *well*.
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5. Introducing 'Best' for Superlatives

Understanding the Superlative Form

When we talk about superlatives, we mean the highest degree of a quality. For the adjective *good*, the superlative is **best**. We use it to say something is number one in a group. 🏆

When to Use 'Best'

Use *best* when you compare three or more people, places, or things.

- This green salsa is good.
- That red salsa is better.
- But the mole is the **best** of all! 🌶️

Forming Sentences with 'Best'

We almost always place *the* before *best*.

- She is the **best** singer in the choir.
- This restaurant is the **best**.
- He is the **best** at solving puzzles.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Using *best* for only two items.
 2. Forgetting *the*.
 3. Adding *-est* to *good*.
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6. Identifying the Top Item with 'The Best'

Spotting the Number One 🏆

When you want to say something is the number one in its group, you use *the best*.

The Rule of Three or More

Use *the best* only when comparing at least three items. For two items, use *better*.

Building the Structure

1. the **best** + noun: This is the **best** coffee.
2. the **best** (without a noun): Of all the cakes, this one is the **best**.

Defining the Group with 'In' or 'Of'

- Use *in* for places: the best beach **in** Mexico.
- Use *of* for a specific set: the best **of** all my friends.

Practice with Real Examples

- This taco stand has the **best** al pastor in the neighborhood.
 - Out of all the seasons, spring is the **best** for visiting the pyramids.
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7. Forming Sentences with 'The Best'

Building Your First Sentences with 'The Best'

- This pizza is the **best**.
- She is the **best** singer in the choir.
- Yesterday was the **best** day of my life.

Adding a Noun After 'The Best'

- He is the **best** teacher at our school.
- That was the **best** movie I have ever seen.

Using 'The Best' with Verbs

- She sings the **best** in the group.
- This computer works the **best** for video editing.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. Forgetting "the".
2. Using "most" with "good".
3. Mixing up "better" and "best".

Practice with Real-Life Contexts

- Tacos al pastor are the **best** street food in my city.
 - My grandmother makes the **best** mole I have ever tasted.
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8. Review Quiz: Good, Better, The Best

Test Your Knowledge 🧠

Fill in the Blank

1. This coffee is really _____. I love it!
2. Between the red dress and the blue one, the blue is _____.
3. Out of all the students, Maria got _____ score on the test.
4. My old phone was okay, but this new one is much _____.
5. That restaurant serves _____ pizza in the whole city! 🍕

Spot the Mistake

- Pedro thinks his idea is the better of the three proposals.
- This book is gooder than the one I read last week.

Real-Life Scenarios

1. You try two desserts: flan and churros. You prefer churros. What do you say?
2. A travel guide lists ten beaches in Mexico. Playa del Carmen is ranked number one. How do you describe it?

Answers for Self-Check ✅

Fill in the Blank: 1. good 2. better 3. the best 4. better 5. the best

Keep Practicing 🤝

Mistakes are normal! Each error teaches you something new. Try creating your own sentences about food, music, or sports using *good*, *better*, and *the best*.

***Note: Bad will be covered in Part 2 and Far will be covered in Part 3.**

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