

The table below shows a number of adjectives in different languages: the regular “positive” form, the “comparative” form and the “superlative” form. For English, we see that while a lot of the affixation is regular, we sometimes encounter root suppletion. Let’s notate the different stems (exponents of the root) with different letters: in the first two rows they’re all A, but in the following two rows we have one A followed by two B’s.

Complete the table.

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative	
English	<b>strong</b> A	<b>strong-er</b> A	<b>strong-est</b> A	‘strong’
English	<b>happy</b> A	<b>happi-er</b> A	<b>happi-est</b> A	‘happy’
English	<b>far</b> A	<b>farth-er</b> B	<b>farth-st</b> B	‘far’
French	<b>bon</b> A	<b>mieux</b> B	<b>le mieux</b> B	‘good’
German	<b>schnell</b>	<b>schnell-er</b>	<b>am schnell-sten</b>	‘fast’
French	<b>mauvais</b>	<b>pire</b>	<b>le pire</b>	‘bad’
Latin	<b>bon-us</b>	<b>mel-ior</b>	<b>opt-imus</b>	‘good’
Danish	<b>god</b>	<b>bed-re</b>	<b>bed-st</b>	‘good’
German	<b>gut</b>	<b>bess-er</b>	<b>am bes-ten</b>	‘good’
Georgian	<b>k’argi-i</b>	<b>u-mj’ob-es-i</b>	<b>sa-u-mj’ob-es-o</b>	‘good’
Welsh	<b>da</b>	<b>gwell</b>	<b>gor-au</b>	‘good’
Basque	<b>asko</b>	<b>gehi-ago</b>	<b>gehi-en</b>	‘a lot’
Irish	<b>maith</b>	<b>ferr</b>	<b>dech</b>	‘good’
Persian	<b>xōb</b>	<b>weh/wah-īy</b>	<b>pahl-om/pāš-om</b>	‘good’
Czech	<b>špatn-ý</b>	<b>hor-ší</b>	<b>nej-hor-ší</b>	‘bad’

What additional patterns emerge? Which patterns might we expect to see, but do not find? Why not? Can you propose a structural explanation? You might find it convenient to assume that the root is spelled out as the positive form when it’s a plain adjective, as well as two additional heads or features [CMPR] and [SPRL].