



Thick and Thin

THICK and THIN are very useful adjectives to have in your English vocabulary. This post will teach you how to use these adjectives in their comparative and superlative forms, plus you will learn 8 different ways to use these adjectives to describe books, forests, soups, smoke, and more.

The comparison of THIN is THINNER

“Dennis is **thinner** than Bradley.”

The superlative of THIN is THINNEST

“Leslie is the **thinnest** of my friends.”

The comparison of THICK is THICKER

“My black belt is **thicker** than my brown belt.”

The superlative of THICK is THICKEST

“It’s the **thickest** book in the library.”

Thick and Thin – meaning

Definitions from [oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)

thick – adjective – having a larger distance between opposite sides or surfaces than other similar objects or than normal

thin – adjective – having a smaller distance between opposite sides or surfaces than other similar objects or than normal

- a **thick** book (= a book that has a lot of pages)
- a **thin** book (= a book that doesn't have many pages)

Thick and Thin Comparison and Superlative

One-Syllable Adjectives Comparison and Superlative RULES

thick thicker thickest

thin thinner thinnest

All adjectives have a comparison form. Here is a Comparison GRAMMAR rule from my blog post >> [Comparison grammar – Your #1 Guide \(25 real examples + video\)](#)

For one-syllable adjectives, we add **-er** to the end of the adjective. **The adjectives THICK and THIN have one syllable.*

Some examples of one-syllable adjectives: cheap – cheaper / small – smaller / high – higher

The Comparison forms of Thick and Thin

The comparison form of **thick** is **thicker**.

Examples with THICKER

“My grey sweater is **thicker** than my blue one.”

“The new iWatch is **thicker** than the older model.”

“Wearing mascara can make your eyelashes look longer and **thicker**.”

The comparison form of **thin** is **thinner**. (The comparison form is spelled with two “N’s”)

Examples with THINNER

“Hi Steve. You look **thinner**. Did you lose weight?”

“I saw Marshall last night for the first time in 3 years. His hair is getting **thinner**.”

“Is it just me or is the local newspaper getting **thinner** every year.”

How to use – English grammar Superlatives (Most, best, biggest)

Here is a Superlative GRAMMAR rule from my blog post >> [How to use English Superlatives \(Your #1 guide, video, quiz\)](#)

For one-syllable adjectives, we add **-est** to the end of the adjective.

Some examples of one-syllable adjectives: cheap – **cheapest** / small – **smallest** / high – **highest**

The superlative forms of Thick and Thin

The superlative form of **thick** is **thickest**.

Examples with THICKEST

“My Orange sweater is the **thickest** of all my sweaters.”

“My wife and I really love that restaurant. They have the **thickest** steaks in town.”

“The forest was full of trees growing very close together. It was hard to walk through, especially in the **thickest** parts near the center.”

The superlative form of **thin** is **thinnest**. (The superlative form also is spelled with two “N’s”)

Examples with THINNEST

“I bought the **thinnest** laptop that the store had.”

“Smartphones keep getting **thinner**. Soon they will be as thin as a credit card!”

“I can’t believe how much weight Walter gained when I saw him at the class reunion. He was always the **thinnest** guy in class. What happened?”

Other uses for the adjectives THICK and THIN

Thick – adjective

thick – having a larger distance between opposite sides or surfaces than other similar objects or than normal

*“Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is a **thick** book, it has more than 630 pages.”*

Thin – adjective

thin – having a smaller distance between opposite sides or surfaces than other similar objects or than normal

*“A **thin** book is good for a short train ride. I can finish the book before my trip is over.”*

*For **hair/fur/trees** –
growing closely
together in large
numbers*

*For **hair** – not growing
closely together or in
large amounts*

*“There was a **thick**
forest behind my family
cottage. I used to play
there with my brother.”*

*“As he got older Phillip
gained weight and his
hair got **thin**.”*

*For **liquid** – not flowing
very easily*

*For **liquid** – containing
more liquid than is
normal or expected*

*“I like to eat cream soup
in the winter. A hot,
thick soup warms up
your body.”*

*“My sister likes **thin**
gravy with turkey, but I
think the flavor is too
weak.”*

*For **fog/smoke/air** –
difficult to see through;
difficult to breathe in*

*For **the air** – containing
less oxygen than normal*

*“The fog was very
thick. We pulled over at
the next gas station to
wait for the fog to clear.”*

*“As you climb higher the
air becomes **thinner** and
it’s hard to breathe.”*

Examples of Thick and Thin

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire is a **thick** book, it has more than 630 pages.

A **thin** book is good for a short train ride. I can finish the book before my trip is over.

At school, I always chose the **thinnest** book in the library for my book reports.

We often use thick and thin to talk about clothes.

It's warm today, you don't need to wear a **thick** sweater. Choose something **thinner**, it will be more comfortable.

This tee shirt is getting **thin**, time to buy a new one.

**After wearing and washing your clothes for a long time the material becomes thinner than when the clothes were new.*

Thick for hair/fur/trees = growing closely together in large numbers

He had the **thickest** eyebrows I had ever seen!

The hikers got lost in the **thick** forest.

As they walked further into the woods the plants and trees grew **thicker**.

Thin for hair = not growing closely together or in large amounts

As Kyle got older his hair got **thinner**.

We can also say someone's hair is "**thinning**"

He has been **thinning** since he was 21.

Thick for liquid = not flowing very easily

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I like to eat **thick** pumpkin soup in the winter.

The mud was very **thick** after the heavy rain. It was hard to walk through. It was much **thicker** than yesterday.

The mud is always **thickest** after the rainy season. It's best to avoid unpaved roads until the ground becomes drier.

Thin for liquid = containing more liquid than is normal or expected

This pasta sauce is very **thin**, it doesn't have much flavor.

To make your gravy **thinner** you should add more water and use less fat and cornstarch.

Thick for fog/smoke/air = difficult to see through; difficult to breathe in

The plane crashed in the **thick** fog.

Firefighters use oxygen masks when they battle fires. This is because of the **thick** smoke caused by burning buildings.

It was the **thickest** smoke they had ever seen.

Thin for the air = containing less oxygen than normal

The air is **thin** at high altitudes. Mountain climbers need to carry heavy oxygen tanks to climb high mountains.

The higher you climb the **thinner** the air becomes. The air is **thinnest** at the very top.

Other word forms made from THICK and THIN

The adjective thick can become the verb thicken if we add the suffix EN

thicken **verb** to become thicker; to make something thicker

- Adding more flour will **thicken** the stew.

[How to use the suffix EN \(Increase vocabulary + VIDEO\)](#)

Thinner can also be a **noun** that means – a substance that is added to paint, varnish, etc. to make it less thick

- I use paint **thinner** to clean my paint brushes.

The noun *thinner* is usually used with *paint*. You can get **paint thinner** at any hardware store, it's a common product used to clean up after painting.

Other helpful blog posts:

- [Autumn Or Fall? 4 Season Names \(Learn their origins HERE\)](#)
- [BORROW vs LEND – Your best guide \(25 real examples + PDF\)](#)
- [Doesn't have or has? Learn FAST with 30 examples \(free PDF\)](#)
- [Learn the difference between HOPE and WISH \(An EASY Guide\)](#)
- [Good At or Good In \(or Good With?\) Your complete guide](#)
- [RAISE vs RISE Learn the Difference \(Video and Quiz PDF\)](#)
- [Suppose OR Supposed to? \(25 real examples + pronunciation guide\)](#)
- [WEAR or PUT ON – Which Should I Use? \(35 real examples\)](#)
- [No None and Non – Learn the difference \(50 examples + PDF\)](#)
- [What's The Difference Between an ATHLETE and a PLAYER? \(Learn Here\)](#)