

2.1 COMPARATIVE & SUPERLATIVE FORMS

A) Comparison of adjectives

Adjectives are compared in Latin in a similar way as in English, i.e. using suffixes. There are, likewise, three degrees of comparison:

- 1) **POSITIVE** expresses quality of one person or thing on its own; e.g. short = brevis, e
- 2) **COMPARATIVE** compares one thing to another, tells whether the thing has more or less of a particular quality, using the suffixes **-IOR** (for masculine and feminine forms) and **-IUS attached to stem** (for neutral forms): e.g. shorter = brevior, ius
 - a. All Latin comparative forms are declined according to paradigms **DOLOR** (M., F.) and **CORPUS** (N.) based on the gender of the noun they describe
 - b. All comparative forms share the same Genitive ending **-IORIS** and Ablative ending **-IORE**
 - c. Neutral comparative forms have different accusative and superlative due to the Acc. = Nom. rule, i.e. Acc.Sg = Nom. Sg. (**-IUS**); Nom. Pl. = Acc. Pl. **-IORA**

| | <u>singular</u> | | <u>plural</u> | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| nominative | brev ior | brev ius | breviores | breviora |
| genitive | brevioris | | breviorum | |
| accusative | breviorem | brevius | breviores | breviora |
| ablative | breviore | | brevioribus | |

- 3) **SUPERLATIVE** describes a thing having the most of a quality of all other things in a group using the suffix **-ISSIMUS** (for male forms), **-ISSIMA** (for female forms), and **ISSIMUM** (for neutral forms) **attached to stem**; e.g. the **shortest = brevissimus, a, um**
 - a. All superlative forms end in **-US, -A, -UM** and are declined like adjectives of 1st and 2nd declension based on the gender of the noun they describe, i.e. like **NERVUS, VENA, or SEPTUM**
- 4) **IRREGULAR AND INCOMPLETE FORMS** just like in English (e.g. good – better - the best), some adjectives create comparatives irregularly, i.e. not using **-IUS/-IOR** and **-ISSIMUS, A, UM** suffixes; or do not create all levels of comparison (i.e. incomplete); in Latin medical terminology there are two irregular and five incomplete comparative terms:

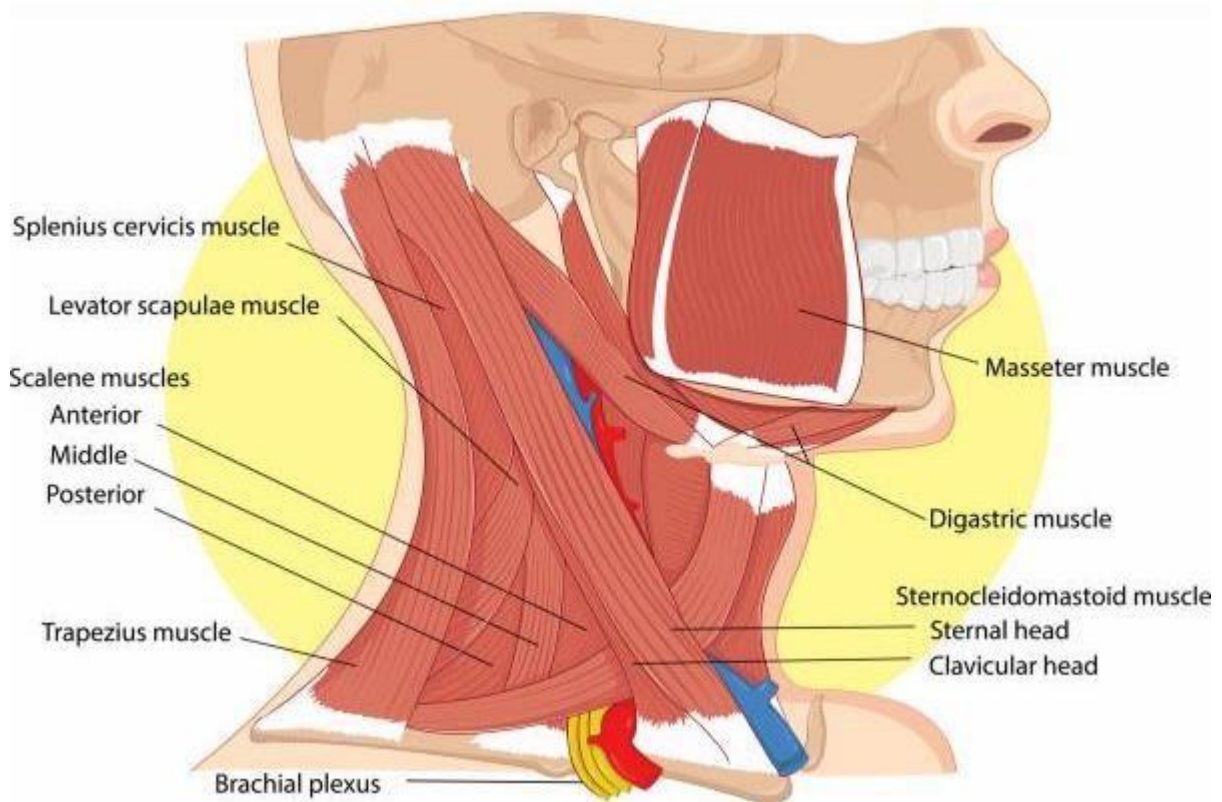
| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| magnus, a, um | maior, maius | maximus, a, um | <i>big, bigger, the biggest</i> |
| parvus, a, um | minor, minus | minimus, a, um | <i>small, smaller, the smallest</i> |
| ante | anterior, ius | ∅ | <i>located more to the front</i> |
| post | posterior, ius | postremus a, um | <i>located more/most behind</i> |
| supra | superior, ius | supremus, a, um | <i>upper/located most above</i> |
| infra | inferior, ius | infimus/imus, a, um | <i>lower/the lowest</i> |
| intra | interior, ius | intimus, a, um | <i>located more inside/innermost</i> |

2.2 EXERCISES ON COMPARATIVE FORMS

1. Fill in the missing forms:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | minor, minus | |
| longus, a, um | | |
| | | latissimus, a, um |
| recens, ntis | | |
| | posterior, ius | |
| gravis, e | | |
| | | brevissimus, a, um |
| | acutior, ius | |

2. Name the anatomical terms shown in the picture using correct Latin forms:



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3. Fill in the given comparative forms into the phrases, make sure you filled in grammatically correct forms. Then think about the opposites to these:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>minimus, a, um</i> | musculus abductor digiti |
| <i>minor, minus</i> | cornu ossis hyoidei |
| <i>superior, ius</i> | defectus arcus dentalis |
| <i>intimus, a, um</i> | musculi intercostales |
| <i>inferior, ius</i> | amputatio membri |
| <i>imus, a, um</i> | arteriae lumbales |
| <i>anterior, ius</i> | peritoneum parietale |
| <i>latissimus, a, um</i> | ruptura musculi dorsi |
| <i>posterior, ius</i> | arteria temporalis profunda |

4. Replace the adjectives with their comparative and superlatives. Keep the grammatical functions of these in the given phrases:

EX : post traumata *gravia* + post traumata *graviora* > post traumata *gravissima*

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| in foraminibus parvis | ..... | ..... |
| operationes simplices | ..... | ..... |
| laesio partis mollis | ..... | ..... |
| ulcus frequens | ..... | ..... |
| in tunica interna | ..... | ..... |
| cum dolore acuto | ..... | ..... |
| fractura cornuum magnorum | ..... | ..... |
| propter infarctum recentem | ..... | ..... |
| medicamenta fortia | ..... | ..... |