

Comparative Lexicon

Email me liub@cs.uic.edu, if you have any questions.

If you use the lexicon in your work, please cite the following paper:

Nitin Jindal and Bing Liu. "Identifying Comparative Sentences in Text Documents" *Proceedings of the 29th Annual International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research & Development on Information Retrieval (SIGIR-06)*, Seattle 2006.

For further information about sentiment analysis of comparative sentences, please refer to:

Bing Liu. *Sentiment Analysis: Mining Opinions, Sentiments, and Emotions*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Comparative Lexicon

Most English comparatives are formed by adding the suffix *-er* and superlatives are formed by adding the suffix *-est* to their *base adjectives* and *base adverbs*.

However, adjectives and adverbs with two syllables or more and not ending in *y* do not form comparatives or superlatives by adding *-er* or *-est*. Instead, *more*, *most*, *less*, and *least* are used before such words, e.g., *more beautiful*.

English also has *irregular comparatives* and *superlatives*:

more, *most*, *less*, *least*, *better*, *best*, *worse*, *worst*, *further/farther* and *furthest/farthest*.

Non-standard words indicating comparisons:

beat, *defeat*, *destroy*, *decimate*, *equal*, *equally*, *kill*, *lead*, *obliterate*, *outclass* (*out class* and *out-class*), *outdo*, *outperform*, *outplay*, *overtake* (*over take* and *over-take*), *smack*, *subdue*, *subpar*, *surpass*, *top*, *trump*, *unmated*, *win*.

Note: We need to be aware that not all appearances of these words indicate sentiment. See the book.

(1) Nonequal gradable comparison

ahead of

cannot | not as ... as

never | not ... as .. as

blow away

blow out of water

(buy | choose | favor | grab | pick | purchase | select | stick to) over

X can do something positive Y cannot

cannot race against

cannot compete with

cannot | not match

compare (with | to | and | over)

compare X and Y

in comparison (of | with)

no comparison

cannot compare
(drop | dump) X for
(edge | lead | take) past
edge out
get rid of X for
gain from
cannot hold a candle
(inferior | superior) to
lag behind
lead against
lead by
lose to | against
number one
on par
on a par with
(not | nothing) like
prefer to | over
X steal Y from Z
suck against
take over | out
up against
vulnerable to ("Blackberry is vulnerable to iPhone's attack.")
weapon against
win against

(2). Equative comparison

as ... as
equal
equivalent
equal to
equally
identical
on (a) par
the same (as)

There are also many comparative terms which do not indicate explicit sentiment, e.g.,

similar, dissimilar, match, unequal, unlike, not alike etc.

Further information on the topic of comparative opinion analysis (including non-gradable comparisons), please refer to my 2015 book.