

10.4 Spelling changes

■ **10.4.1** Many common adjectives take an Umlaut (ä ö ü) in the comparative and superlative forms:

jung (*young*) jünger (*younger*) der jüngste (*the youngest*)
alt (*old*) älter (*older*) der älteste (*the oldest*)

The following common adjectives take an Umlaut:

alt, arg, arm, dumm, grob, groß, hart, hoch, gesund,
jung, kalt, klug, kurz, lang, nah, scharf, schwach, schwarz,
stark, warm

■ **10.4.2** In addition, the following adjectives have a consonant change in the comparative or superlative:

hoch (*high*) höher (*higher*) der höchste (*the highest*)
nah (*near*) näher (*nearer*) der nächste (*the nearest*)

■ **10.4.3** Most adjectives ending in **-d -t -s -ß -sch -x -z** add **-est** in the superlative for ease of pronunciation:

intelligent intelligenter der intelligenteste
(*intelligent*) (*more intelligent*) (*the most intelligent*)
süß süßer der süßeste
(*sweet*) (*sweeter*) (*the sweetest*)

but note:

groß (*large*) größer (*larger*) der größte (*the largest*)

■ **10.4.4** Adjectives ending in **-el** and **-er** lose the last **e** before adding the comparative ending:

dunkel (*dark*) dunkler (*darker*) der dunkelste (*the darkest*)
teuer (*dear*) teurer (*dearer*) der teuerste (*the dearest*)

10.5 Irregular forms

As in English, there are a few completely irregular comparative and superlative forms:

gut (*good*) besser (*better*) der beste (*the best*)
viel (*much*) mehr (*more*) der meiste (*the most*)

11 Adverbs

Adverbs are used to modify the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb. They can give information about time, frequency, place, manner and degree, reason and attitude.

11.1 Formation

■ **11.1.1** Adjectives as adverbs

In English, many adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding the ending *-ly*, but German uses the same form as the adjective:

Sie ist schön. *She is beautiful.*
Sie singt schön. *She sings beautifully.*
Ihre Stimme ist sehr gut. *Her voice is very good.*
Die Tenöre passen gut zusammen. *The tenors go well together.*

Unlike adjectives (9.2), adverbs add no endings.

■ **11.1.2** Formation from other parts of speech

Some adverbs are formed from adjectives, nouns, verbs and other parts of speech by adding endings. Common endings are **-erweise**, **-(s)weise**, **-lang**, **-lich**, e.g.:

glücklicherweise *fortunately* stundenlang *for hours*
ausnahmsweise *exceptionally* erstaunlich *surprisingly*
teilweise *partly*

■ **11.1.3** 'Original' adverbs

Many adverbs are not derived from other parts of speech:

<i>time</i>	<i>manner/degree</i>	<i>place</i>
heute <i>today</i>	äußerst <i>extremely</i>	dort <i>there</i>
jetzt <i>now</i>	besonders <i>especially</i>	draußen <i>outside</i>
zuerst <i>at first</i>	ziemlich <i>fairly</i>	unten <i>downstairs</i>