Comparatives and Superlatives in German - An Introduction

Positive (base form)

The base form of an adjective is called the "positive" form.
If the adjective comes to the left of the noun, then that adjective is called an "attributive" adjective and takes grammar endings.
If the adjective appears somewhere to the right of the noun, then it is a "predicate" adjective and takes no endings.

Mein neues Fahrad hat viel gekostet.	My new bicycle cost a lot. (attributive adjective with grammar endings)
Mein Fahrrad ist neu.	My bicycle is new. (predicate adjective with no endings)
Wir arbeiten an dem alten Projekt.	We are working on the old project. (attributive adjective with grammar endings)
Das Projekt ist schon viel zu alt.	That project is already much too old. (predicate adjective with no endings)

Comparative

The form used for comparisons is call the "comparative" for both adjectives and adverbs.
The comparative marker is "-er" for German adjectives and adverbs. The adverb *noch* (even) occurs frequently with comparatives.
Many monosyllabic adjectives in the comparative take Umlaut (such as *älter, jünger, größer*, etc.) and must be memorized.
The German word for "than" (better *than*, older *than*, smaller *than*, etc.) is "*als*."
Comparative adjectives when used attributively take grammatical endings in addition to the comparative marker.
There are a few irregular forms that must be memorized. The most notable are:

gut → besser   good → better   (in the sense of ability or quality)
viel → mehr   much/a lot → more   (in the sense of quantity)
gern → lieber   (no English equivalent) gladly → more gladly   (in the sense of showing preference - to prefer)
bald → eher   soon → sooner

Mein Bruder ist älter als meine Schwester.	My brother is older than my sister. (predicative - takes no endings)
Ist dein Leben noch interessanter als meines?	Is your life even more interesting than mine? (predicative - no endings)
Matthias hat das kleinere Auto gekauft.	Matthias bought the smaller car. (attributive - takes endings)
Diesmal habe ich einen noch längeren Aufsatz geschrieben.	This time I wrote a longer composition. (attributive - takes endings)
Sie spricht Deutsch noch besser als English.	She speaks German better than English. (adverb - no endings)
Ich trinke Wein noch lieber als Bier.	I like wine better than beer. (*lieber* =preference - I prefer wine to beer.)
Hast du noch mehr Geld?	Do you have more money. (*mehr* is not declinable.)

Superlative

Adjectives can be used to indicate that an item has a superior quality above all the other items being compared.
The form of the adjective used to express this notion is called the "superlative."
Superlative adjectives take the marker "-st" or "-est" in German.
Predicate adjectives in the superlative take the set form "*am …sten.*" This form is also used for superlative adverbs.
Attributive adjectives in the superlative must take the definite article *(der, die, das)* along with grammar endings.
There are a few irregular forms in the superlative, and they must be memorized. The most notable are:

gut → best   good → best   (in the sense of ability or quality)
viel → meist   much/a lot → most   (in the sense of quantity)
gern → liebst   (no English equivalent) gladly → most gladly   (in the sense of showing preference - to prefer)
bald → ehest   soon → soonest

Findest du Deutsch am schwierigsten?	Do you think German is the most difficult? (predicate - set form: *am …sten*)
Ist English die einfachste Sprache?	Is English the easiest language? (attributive - takes endings)
Der beste Autor im 17. Jahrhundert war Goethe.	The best author in the 17th century was Goethe. (attributive - takes endings)
Bill Gates hat das größte Einkommen.	Bill Gates has the biggest income. (attributive - takes endings)
Die meisten Studenten müssen arbeiten.	Most students have to work. (attributive - takes endings)
Meine Katze schläft die meiste Zeit.	My cat sleeps most of the time. (attributive - takes endings)
Kirsten trinkt Bier am liebsten.	Kirsten likes beer best. (shows preference; adverb - set form: *am …sten*)