

**CHAPTER - 9****Adjectives**

You have already learnt that adjectives may form the part of a noun phrase. They are used after determiners and numbers if any, but immediately before nouns e.g. my five *black* goats. Let's learn more about them.

**A. Position of Adjectives :**

Mark the position of adjectives in sentences under Group-A and those under Group-B.

**Group-A**

1. You have a *big* house.
2. These are *colourful* dresses.
3. That is a *green* field.
4. He appears to be a *hungry* man.

**Group-B**

1. Your house is *big*.
2. These dresses are *colourful*.
3. That field looks *green*.
4. The man appears *hungry*.

**A.** We can use most adjectives in the above manner. We can put them either before the noun they describe (Group-A) or after verbs (Group-B) in a sentence. The former kind of use is called **attributive use** and the latter **predicative use**. We make predicative use after verbs like *be*, *become*, *seem*, *look*, *appear*, *get* (= become), *stay* (= remain), *look*, *feel*, *taste*, *smell* and *sound*.

**Activity 1 :**

Read the sentences below. The adjectives in these sentences are used either before a noun or after a verb. Use the adjectives in their alternative positions and write them. One has been done for you.

1. This is a *useful* book

Ans. : This book is useful .....

2. She is a *clever* girl.

Ans. : .....

3. He looks to be an *honest* man.

Ans. : .....

4. It is a *wonderful* machine.

Ans. : .....

5. This cake has a *sweet* smell.

Ans. : .....

6. This food has become *stale*.

Ans. : .....

7. The night was very *dark*.

Ans. : .....

8. The day is indeed *hot*.

Ans. : .....

9. This bed feels *soft*.

Ans. : .....

10. Her voice sounds *sweet*.

Ans. : .....

**B.** We can use most adjectives in both positions – before a noun or after a link verb. But a few adjectives are usually used in one position.

Adjectives that go after a link verb, but not before a noun : *afraid, asleep, alike, alive, alone, ashamed, aware, awake, content, pleased, (un)well, (un)sure, ready, sorry, unable.*

For example :

1. The baby is *asleep*. (Not, *asleep* baby)
2. The child is *glad*. (Not, *glad* child)

**C. Adjectives that go before nouns but not after link verbs :** *chief, principal, only, inner, outer, upper, indoor, former, elder, existing, mere, utter, little, main.*

For example :

1. This is the *main* building. (Not, this building is *main*)
2. Football is an *outdoor* game. (Not, football game is *outdoor*)

**D. Post-Positioned :**

Mark the following sentences :

- (i) I think that something *terrible* is going to happen.
- (ii) Everything *necessary* will be done.
- (iii) There was nobody / no one *important* at the meeting.

In the above sentences the adjectives (terrible, necessary and important) come after *something, everything* and *nobody / no one*. This position of adjectives is called **Post-Positioned**.

**E. Some adjectives can be used before a noun or immediately after it. But these adjectives have different meanings in each position.**

1. (a) The *concerned* mother rushed her baby to the doctor. (= worried mother)
- (b) The doctor *concerned* told her not to worry. (= doctor attending the baby.)
2. (a) He is a *responsible* person. (= reliable and duty bound.)
- (b) The person *responsible* for the delay will be punished (=being the cause of something wrong.)

3. (a) How is the *present* situation ? (=the situation now)  
 (b) The members *present* in the meeting gave their opinions (=attending)
4. (a) He has an *opposite* opinion. (entirely different)  
 (b) Smoke is coming out of the house *opposite*.  
 (facing the speaker or the other side of the road.)

### F. Nouns as adjectives :

- (i) There are some nouns which can be used before another noun. So they function as adjectives. They are also called classifiers.

#### As nouns

Let's go to the *cinema*.

Switch off the *television*.

Similarly we can say : *library* book, *science* college, *steel* chair, *apple* tree, *car* stereo, *marriage* procession, *opinion* survey, etc.

#### As adjectives/classifiers

The Globe is an old *cinema* hall.

I enjoy *television* programme.

### Activity 2 :

Now use nouns in **column A** as adjectives putting them before appropriate nouns in **B** and write them. One has been done for you.

A	B
photo	bus
marriage	marriage
river	frame
school	ceremony
child	sun
paper	studio
morning	water
picture	boat.

1.    Photo                                  studio
2.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_
3.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_
4.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_
5.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_
6.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_
7.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_
8.    \_\_\_\_\_                                  \_\_\_\_\_

- (ii) But an adjective ending in *-ed/en* describes how a person feels or the condition a thing is in. (*excited* audience, *frightened* baby, *broken* glass)
- (iii) Some adjectives ending in *-ing* describe that something is continuing. (*a running* train, *rising* price, *a flowing* stream, *a moving* car, *a living* thing)

**Activity 3 :**

Rewrite the sentences below choosing the correct alternative.

1.    Grandma told us some amusing / amused stories.  
      Ans. : .....
2.    His long speech was very bored / boring.  
      Ans. : .....
3.    His behaviour was disgusting / disgusted.  
      Ans. : .....
4.    Why do you look so depressing / depressed ?  
      Ans. : .....
5.    The smile on your face is relaxed / relaxing to me.  
      Ans. : .....
6.    Lata's progress at school is quite encouraging / encouraged to me.  
      Ans. : .....

**Activity 4 :**

Here is a passage describing the relief work done by people in a flood hit area. Complete the passage using the appropriate form of the words given in brackets.

It rained heavily for some days. The river water started swelling. The water level reached an \_\_\_\_\_ (alarm) height and started overflowing into the nearby villages. The \_\_\_\_\_ (panic) people began moving to higher places from their \_\_\_\_\_ (damage) houses. The sound of the \_\_\_\_\_ (rush) water was very \_\_\_\_\_ (frighten). The sight of the village after the flood receded was quite \_\_\_\_\_ (shock). There were \_\_\_\_\_ (break) houses, \_\_\_\_\_ (uproot) trees and dead animals everywhere. We rushed to the villages with relief materials soon after. The villagers were actually \_\_\_\_\_ (shock) at the sudden loss of their houses and property. We consoled the \_\_\_\_\_ (weep) women and children. We met the \_\_\_\_\_ (distress) villagers and distributed the relief materials among them. We asked them not to be \_\_\_\_\_ (worry). We told them that the government would surely do something for them during their \_\_\_\_\_ (trouble) times. Our work might have been small, but it was so \_\_\_\_\_ (satisfy).

**A. Order of Adjectives :**

Adjectives usually tell us about something or somebody :—

- |                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Opinion          | : | good, bad, ugly, nice, useful, wonderful, naughty, etc.   |
| Size             | : | big, small, medium, enormous, huge, tiny, little, etc.    |
| Physical quality | : | heavy, light, hard, soft, etc.                            |
| Age              | : | old, young, new, ancient, recent, medieval, antique, etc. |

Shape	:	round, oval, triangular, conical, irregular, etc.
Colour	:	red, green, black, white, coloured, etc.
Place of origin	:	Indian, Chinese, tropical, equatorial, polar, sea, pond, river, etc.
Materials	:	iron, gold, silver, copper, earthen, wood(en), woollen, bamboo, stone, steel, etc.
Purpose	:	walking, drinking, washing, cleaning, living, etc.

Most often we use only one adjective before a noun. Sometimes we may need to use more than one adjective. In that case, we put the adjectives in an accepted order. In the following sentences more than one adjective has been used before a noun. Write the order in which they have been used. One has been done for you.

1. You have a nice little home. (opinion, size)
2. It is an old Indian wooden chair. ( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Konark is a wonderful medieval stone structure.  
( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
4. This is a nice aluminium walking stick. ( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
5. It is a huge black African elephant. ( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
6. I was talking about this beautiful old wooden dining table.  
( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
7. I have some ancient Indian copper coins.  
( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
8. Look at the old wooden royal bed. ( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)
9. Dams are huge modern concrete structures across rivers.  
( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)

10. Bring the new round green table cloth.

( \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_)

**B. Using Comma (,) or ‘and’ between adjectives.**

We do not use a *comma* (,) or ‘*and*’ between adjectives. They are rather used in an accepted order as you have already read above.

An *old wooden dining* table. But not, an *old, wooden and dining* table. But when we use two colour adjectives before a noun, we join them with ‘*and*’.

a *black and white* photograph.

a *red and green* jersey.

When we use two or more adjectives after a link verb we put ‘*and*’ before the last adjective and a comma (,) between others.

The day was *hot and tiring*.

The day was *hot, humid and tiring*.

The man was *tall, dark and handsome*.

**Activity 5 :**

Read the following letter. The writer has made some mistakes in using the adjectives. Correct them wherever necessary. You may have to put commas (,) / and in some places also.

Hirakud

Dear Soma,

5th November 2011

I reached Hirakud yesterday. I am now living in a little nice hotel and the rooms are quite clean spacious decorated. I can see the concrete huge river dam and the deep blue waters from my window. The size of the dam and the water body is really amazed. I can see people with their fishing wooden boats



catching fish. You will be surprising to see that even small children go out into the waters to catch fish. How fearless ! Since it is already winter you can see birds of red white blue or mixed colours swimming playfully in the waters. They come here in winter and go back to their original places at its end. Tomorrow I will visit the dam and go out into the waters in a big motor boat. What a fun it will be ! I feel thrilling at the idea. I will tell you more when I go back home and see you.

Yours lovingly

Meera

### **C. Adjectives : Degrees of Comparison.**

See how we compare people or things for some of their qualities or characteristics.

Lata is *taller than* Sita.

(Lata is compared with another girl for tallness using the comparative degree. In comparatives we usually add *-er* to the adjectives and use *than* after it.)

Lata is *taller than* her three sisters, Or, Lata is *taller than* all her sisters.

(Lata is compared for tallness with more than one person using the comparative degree.)

Lata is *the tallest of* the four sisters.

Lata is *the tallest of* all girls in her class.

(Lata is compared to a group of persons which she belongs to and is found to have the quality of the highest (superlative) order. This is called the superlative degree. We usually add *-est* to the adjective and use *the* before the superlative.

**D. Forms of Adjectives in Comparative and Superlative Degree.**

We make comparative and superlative forms of adjectives in the following ways. The superlative degree is preceded by the definite article 'the'.

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
Shorter adjectives	add –er	Add – est
strong      cheap, great      safe tall      cold etc.	stronger, taller cheaper, colder	strongest, tallest cheapest, coldest
	Steel is stronger than wood.	Everest is the tallest mountain in the world.
Longer Adjectives  famous beautiful confident	add more before adjectives more famous more beautiful more confident.	add most before adjectives most famous most beautiful most confident
	Shephali is more beautiful than Anita.	Tendulkar is the most famous cricketer of India.
Adjectives ending in a consonant and –y	drop –y and add –ier	drop –y and add –iest
heavy      dirty easy      funny, etc.	heavier, dirtier easier, funnier, etc.	heaviest, dirtiest easiest, funniest
	A car is heavier than a bike.	Ashok is the funniest boy in our class.
Irregular Adjectives good, bad, far, etc.	better, worse farther (further)	best, worst farthest
	Rama is better than her brother. My health is worse than earlier.	This is the best thing I can do. Your performance was the worst this time.

**Activity 6 :**

Complete the passage using adjectives in their appropriate degrees.

There are many schools in Bhubaneswar. You get a \_\_\_\_\_ (wide) choice of schools there than in many other cities. The Capital Secondary School is the \_\_\_\_\_ (famous) one because it has the \_\_\_\_\_ (high) pass rate. Besides, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ (old) school in the city and has produced many great scholars. But the Ekamra Secondary School is \_\_\_\_\_ (big) and \_\_\_\_\_ (modern). It has a hostel with \_\_\_\_\_ (large) rooms than most hostels have and it is \_\_\_\_\_ (comfortable) to live in. However, the school is \_\_\_\_\_ (expensive) and only rich people prefer this school. Vidya Bharati School is considered to be the \_\_\_\_\_ (popular) of all schools. It gives \_\_\_\_\_ (good) results than most other schools although it is less \_\_\_\_\_ (expensive). Its disadvantage is that it has a \_\_\_\_\_ (small) campus and is located in a \_\_\_\_\_ (noisy) place. The school building looks \_\_\_\_\_ (old) than it actually is as it is not properly maintained. Children of \_\_\_\_\_ (poor) families prefer this school as the fees are the \_\_\_\_\_ (low) in the city.

**Notes to the Teacher**

We cannot use 'very' before any comparative. We cannot say :

He is very older than me.

But we can say :

He is *much* / *far* older than me.

We cannot use two comparatives or two superlatives for emphasis.

We cannot say

This man is *more stronger* than him.

Or, He is the *most strongest* man in our village.

The correct way to say the above are :

This man is (*far*) stronger than him.

Or, This man is (*by far*) the strongest man in our village.

**E. Comparing Equals :** as + adjective + as  
so + adjective + as

Sometimes we may compare two persons or things having equal characteristics.

Bibhu is fat.

Sudhir is equally fat.

We can compare them and say :

Bibhu is *as fat as* Sudhir.

This bag is big.

That bag is also equally big.

We can compare them and say :

This bag is *as big as* that.

For negative comparisons :

Raja is tall.

Subodh is not tall like Raja.

We can compare Raja and Subodh and say.

Subodh is not *as tall as* Raja.

Or, Subodh is not *so tall as* Raja.

**F. Double Comparatives :**

I am getting *fatter and fatter*.

The evening became *darker and darker*.

She looks *more and more* beautiful day by day.

In the above sentences we intend to say that something is/was changing or is/was in a process of change. So we repeat the comparative.

**Activity 7 :**

- (i) Complete the sentences using the adjectives given in brackets to show that something is changing. One has been done for you as an example. (dirty, tall, bright, short, crowded, beautiful)
1. Your shirt is becoming dirtier and dirtier.
  2. The baby.....
  3. The day.....
  4. In winter, days become.....
  5. The place.....
  6. The garden.....in spring.
- (ii) The following sentences have two parts, each part having a word (adjective, adverb or determiner) in the comparative form. The change that happens to the person or thing in the second part depends on the change that takes place in the first part of the sentence.
1. The *older* I get the *wiser* I become.  
(= I become *wiser* as I become *older*.)
  2. The *higher* you go, the *cooler* you feel.  
(= you feel cooler if you go to higher places.)

**Activity 8 :**

Complete the following sentences adding a second part to it using the adjectives and verbs given in brackets. One has been done for you.

1. The older you are, the weaker you become. (weak, become)
2. The higher the sun goes..... (hot, be)
3. The deeper you dig..... (warm, feel)
4. The faster you walk..... (early, reach)
5. The more you study,..... (more, learn)
6. The better you dress..... (smart, look)

