

Chapter-31

Degree of comparison

Degree of Comparison can be made using the three forms (degrees) of the adjective & adverbs. Adjectives are of three degrees.

(1) Positive (2) Comparative (3) Superlative

- The lion is a **strong** animal.
- Rita is a **beautiful** girl. / David is a **rich** man.
- Cancel is **more dreadful** than cholera.
- Mount Everest is **the highest** peak in the world.

Positive	Very few boys in the class are as tall as John.
Comparative	John is taller than any other boys in the class.
	John is taller than most other boys in the class.
Superlative	John is the tallest boy in the class.
	John is one of the tallest boys in the class.

The Positive Degree- When we speak about only one person or thing, We use the Positive degree. It is used when ***no comparison is made***.

- It is a **tall** building. / Apple is **sweet** to taste.

The Comparative Degree is used to compare qualities of two persons or things.

The Comparative Degree denotes the existence of a higher degree of quality than the positive. It is used ***when two things*** (or two sets of things) are compared.

- This building is **taller** than any other building.
- Apple is **sweeter** than a pear.

The Superlative Degree denotes the existence of the highest degree of quality. It is used when more than two things are compared.

- This is the **tallest** building.
- Apple is the **sweetest** fruit.
- Mona is kind (*Positive Degree*)
- Mona is kinder than Rosy (*Comparative Degree*)
- Mona is the kindest of all (*Superlative Degree*)

degree of comparison

By adding ‘er’ and ‘est’

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bright	brighter	brightest
black	blacker	blackest
bold	bolder	boldest
clever	cleverer	cleverest
cold	colder	coldest
fast	faster	fastest
great	greater	greatest
high	higher	highest
kind	kinder	kindest
long	longer	longest
small	smaller	smallest
strong	stronger	strongest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
tall	taller	tallest
young	younger	youngest

By adding ‘r’ and ‘st’

brave	braver	bravest
fine	finer	finest
large	larger	largest
nice	nicer	nicest
noble	nobler	noblest
pale	paler	palest
simple	simpler	simplest
wise	wiser	wisest
white	whiter	whitest

degree of comparison

By deleting the final 'y' and adding 'ier' and 'iest'

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
costly	costlier	costliest
dry	drier	driest
easy	easier	easiest
happy	happier	happiest
heavy	heavier	heaviest
lazy	lazier	laziest
mercy	mercier	merciest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest

By using more and most

active	more active	most active
attractive	more attractive	most attractive
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
brilliant	more brilliant	most brilliant
careful	more careful	most careful
courageous	more courageous	most courageous
cunning	more cunning	most cunning
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
famous	more famous	most famous
faithful	more faithful	most faithful
proper	more proper	most proper
popular	more popular	most popular
splendid	more splendid	most splendid

By doubling the final consonants

big	bigger	biggest
dim	dimmer	dimmest
fat	fatter	fattest
hot	hotter	hottest
thin	thinner	thinnest

degree of comparison

Irregular Comparisons

bad	worse	worst
evil	worse	worst
good	better	best
ill	worse	worst
far	farther	farthest
well	better	best
late	later	latest
little	less	least
much	more	most
many	more	most
near	nearer	nearest
old	older	oldest
old	elder	eldest

Examples of comparative degree

John is as clever as Rosy.	Rosy is not clever than John.
Benjamin is at least as tall as Jane	Jane is not taller than Benjamin.
Stalin is not so bright as Lazar.	Lazar is brighter than Stalin.
Lazar is as strong as Lenin.	Lenin is not less strong than Lazar.
England is not so hot as Paris.	Paris is hotter than England.
John is as tall as David.	David is not taller than John.
The Blue Mountain Express runs faster than the Green Express.	The Green Express does not run so fast as the Blue Mountain Express.

degree of comparison

Examples of superlative degree

Positive	Very few cities in England are so big as London
Comparative	London is bigger than most other city in England
Superlative	London is one of the biggest city in England
Positive	Some boys in our class are at least as intelligent as Benjamin
Comparative	Some boys in our class are not intelligent than Benjamin
Superlative	Benjamin is not the most intelligent boy in our class
Positive	No other metal is so useful as iron.
Comparative	Iron is more useful than any other metal.
Superlative	Iron is the most useful of all metals.
Positive	No other boy in the class is so clever as Tom.
Comparative	Tom is cleverer than any other boy in the class.
Superlative	Tom is the cleverest of all boys in the class.
Positive	No other water is so pure as rain water.
Comparative	Rain water is purer than any other water.
Superlative	Rain water is the purest water.
Positive	Very few cities in England are as busy as Paris.
Comparative	Paris is busier than most other cities in England.
Superlative	Paris is one of the busiest cities in England.
Positive	Very few animals are as fast as a cheetah.
Comparative	Cheetah is faster than most other animals.
Superlative	Cheetah is one of the fastest animals.
Positive	Football is one of the most interesting games.
Comparative	Football is more interesting than most other games.
Superlative	Very few games are as interesting as foot ball.