

7. Adjectives

The words that qualify the nouns are called adjectives.

Points for Corrections of Adjectives:

A quantitative adjective is always placed before a singular noun i.e. material or some abstract noun.

- Usage of "Some, Any": As quantitative adjectives the word "some" is used to express positive quantity whereas the word "Any" is used to express negative quantity.

Example:

- My brother brought some milk, from the dairy parlour.
- My brother did not bring any milk from the dairy parlour.
- Usage of "Little": As a quantitative, the word "little" doesn't express any quantity unless it is preceded by "A" (a little = negligible quantity) or by 'The' (The little = more than negligible quantity)
- Numeral Adjectives: All numeral Adjectives are followed by nouns in plural numbers except for the adjective "one". There are two types of numeral adjectives,
 - Definite Numerals: Five, Nine, First etc.
 - Cardinals: The exact numbers like Five, Nine, Twenty, Two etc.
 - Ordinals: The serial numbers like First, Second, Fifth etc.

Note:

- All cardinals are followed by plural nouns except for the word "one", whereas every ordinal is followed by a singular noun.
- When, a cardinal & ordinal are placed before a noun, an ordinal must precede the cardinal.

Examples:

- I read the 13 first chapters of the constitution. (Wrong)
- I read the first 13 chapters of the constitution (Right)
- Indefinite Numerals: All, Some, Enough, Many, Several, Few etc.
- Usage of "Each, Every": The word "each" is used to qualify a noun taken from a group of only two; whereas the word "every" or "each" is used when the noun qualified is taken from a group of more than two.
- Usage of "Either, Neither": These adjectives are always used to express choice. The word "either" expresses a positive choice whereas the word "neither" expresses a negative choice.

- Usage of "Each other, One another": When an action mentioned in a sentence refers to two persons only, the phrase is "each other"; whereas the phrase is "One another", when the action refers to more than two persons.

Example:

- Ravi and Kiran (noun) met each other at the university campus (noun)
- Ravi, Kiran, Geeta & Naveen (nouns) met one another at the university campus.
- Usage of "Many a, A many": The phrase "many a" is always followed by a singular noun whereas the phrase "a many" is followed by a plural noun.

Degrees of Comparison:

There are three degrees in which we make comparisons.

- **Superlative Degree:**

Example: Sanjay is the (definite article) cleverest (superlative adjective) student in class.

In this degree of comparison, the superlative adjective is preceded by definite article "the".

- **Comparative Degree:**

Example: Sanjay is cleverer than (conjunction) any other (demonstrative adjective) student in class.

In this degree of comparison, comparative adjective is followed by the conjunction "than". This is followed by the word "other", an indefinite demonstrative adjective.

- **Positive Degree:**

Example: No other student in class is as (adverb) clever (adjective) as (conjunction) Sanjay.

In this degree of comparison the adjective is placed in between "as – as" or "so - as".

Formation of Comparative & Superlative Adjectives:

- All adjectives of more than two syllables & some adjectives of two syllables form comparatives & superlatives by placing "more" & "most" respectively before adjectives.

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
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Beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
Industrious	more industrious	most industrious
Intelligent	more intelligent	most intelligent
Useful	more useful	most useful
Careful	more careful	most careful

- All adjectives of one syllable & many adjectives of two syllables form comparative & superlatives by suffixing "er" & "est" respectively.

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
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Bold	Bolder	Boldest
Strong	Stronger	Strongest
Dear	Dearer	Dearest
Near	Nearer	Nearest
Tall	Taller	Tallest
Clever	Cleverer	Cleverest
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Thin	Thinner	Thinnest
Happy	Happier	Happiest
Dry	Drier	Driest
Gay	Gayer	Gayest
Grey	Greyer	Greyest
Large	Larger	Largest
Brave	Braver	Bravest
White	Whiter	Whitest

- Irregular comparisons:

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
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Bad/Evil	Worse	Worst
Fore(time)	Former	Foremost, First
Far	Farther	Farthest
Good	Better	Best
Late	Later, Latter	Latest, Last
Little	Less	Least
Much/Many	More	Most

Near	Nearer	Nearest
Old	Older, Elder	Oldest, Eldest

There are five words which are adverbs in the positive degree but adjectives in the comparative and superlative degree. These are never used in degrees of comparison. The comparative and superlative forms are used in an attributive manner to express a degree of variation in position or distance.

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
Far	Farther	Farthest
Beneath(under)	Nether	Nethermost
In	Inner	Innermost
Out	Outer, Utter	Outermost, Utmost
Up	Upper	Uppermost

Latin Comparatives: The seven words, "Anterior, Posterior, Senior, Junior, Superior, Inferior, and Prior" are called Latin comparatives. Because they are Latin comparatives, there is no other degree comparison. Because they are comparatives, they are followed by the preposition "to" instead of the conjunction "than". Besides they can be neither suffixed nor prefixed with "more" or "most".

Models of Comparisons:

Statement - The Ganges is the longest river in India.

Model -1:

- The Ganges is the longest of all rivers in India. (Superlative Degree)
- The Ganges is longer than any other river in India. (Comparative Degree)
- No other river in India is as long as the Ganges. (Positive Degree)

Model - 2:

- The Ganges is one of the longest rivers in the world. (Superlative Degree)
- The Ganges is longer than many other / most other rivers in the world. (Comparative Degree)
- Very few rivers in the world are as long as the Ganges. (Positive Degree)

Model - 3:

- The Ganges is not the longest river in the world. (Superlative Degree)
- The Ganges is not longer than some other rivers in the world. (Comparative Degree)
- Some (other) rivers in the world are at least as long as the Ganges. (Comparative Degree)

Note: When the comparison is expressed in between persons, places, things or groups, there is no superlative degree of comparison.

Model - 4:

- Beans are more nutritious than meat. (Comparative Degree)
- Meat is not as nutritious as beans. (Superlative Degree)

Model - 5:

- Secret love is not better than open rebuke. (Comparative Degree)
- Open rebuke is (at least) as good as secret love. (Comparative Degree)

Points of corrections in degrees of comparison:

Double comparatives and double superlatives are to be avoided.

The definite article "The" is omitted –

- Before the superlative adjective placed before the noun in vocative case.

Example: O dearest one (vocative case), when shall we see you again?

- When the superlative adjective is preceded by possessive adjective or a possessive noun.

Example: Ravi is my (possessive adjective) greatest friend.

- The following words are not compared at all since they represent the highest degree: Unique, Extreme, Chief, Complete, Perfect, Ideal, Universal, Entire

Note: Because these adjectives contain superlative force of meaning, they are neither prefixed nor suffixed with "more or most".

- The word "prefer" has comparative force of meaning in itself. As such it cannot be used in any degree of comparison. As comparative it is followed by the preposition "to" instead of the conjunction "than". Besides, the word can be neither prefixed nor suffixed with "more or most".

Example:

- He prefers coffee more than tea. (wrong)
- He prefers coffee to tea. (correct)

The five words, "Interior, Exterior, Ulterior, Major and Minor" are now used as ordinary adjectives in the positive degree, though they were originally Latin comparatives.

- Usage of "Further, Farther": The word "further" is used in the sense of additional or a bit advanced where as the word "farther" is used in the sense of distance.
- Usage of "Later, Latest and Latter, Last": The words "later" and "latest" are used in the sense of time, whereas the words "latter", and "last" are used in the sense of position in comparative and superlative degrees respectively.
- Usage of "Older, Oldest and Elder, Eldest": The words "older" and "oldest" are used for persons and things in general whereas the words "elder" and "eldest" are used for blood relations in the meaning of age in comparative and superlative degrees respectively.
- Usage of "Nearest, Next": The word "nearest" denotes distance or space where as the word "next" denotes order or position
- Usage of "Less": The word "less" itself is comparative form of "little". So the word "lesser" doesn't have any sense.

Note: The word "less" generally denotes quantity. The word few denotes number. But we can say, "More or less than 40 boys failed". Here the expression expresses the number as mathematical quantity but not of individual boys. That difference between two numbers is expressed by seeing that one is less than the other.

Example: We want a few more workers and a few less administrators. (A number that is less, than the present number)

A very common form of error: When the comparison is between persons, things or places, whose description is given in the form of phrases, the phrasal construction of the two phrases must be similar to each other to make the degree of expression apt.

Example:

- The streets of Ahmadabad ("The streets of Ahmadabad" is a phrase) are wider than Kolkata. (wrong)
- The streets of Ahmadabad are wider than those of Kolkata. (Correct)

When a clause contains the word "compare" in any form, the adjective must be in positive degree.

Example: Between Ravi and Hari, Ravi is better student.

ARTICLES:

"A" and "An" are called indefinite articles and "The" is a definite article.

Usages of Indefinite Article:

- As a general rule, a common noun in singular number should have an indefinite article before it.

Example: I saw a horse in the garden.

- When the starting pronunciation sound of a common noun is a vowel or a semi vowel sound, "an" must be placed before the noun.

Example: An Apple, An Elephant, An Orange, An umbrella, An hour, An year, etc.

- When the starting pronunciation sound of a singular common noun is a consonant sound, "a" must be placed before the noun.

Example: A college, A university, A European, A person, A friend etc.

- When a common singular noun is preceded by an adjective, the starting pronunciation sound of adjective is the criterion to decide whether "a" should be placed or "an" should be placed.

Example: A black Elephant, A white Umbrella, An Indian University, An intelligent European, An important task, a rotten egg, etc.

- "a" or "an" is placed before singular common noun, when it represents a whole class.

Example:

- A dog is a faithful animal.
- A man is a mortal.

- "A" or "An" is placed before a noun complement.

Example:

- He is a lawyer.
- She is an expert in embroidery.

- When "such" is used with a singular common noun, "a" or "an" is placed after "such"

Example:

- Such a thing has never happened before.
- It was such a fine show.

- When the word "so" comes before an adjective, "a" or "an" is placed between the adjective and noun.

Example:

- He gave us such a pleasant a surprise.
- I have never read such an interesting a novel.

- "A" or "An" is placed before numerical expressions also.

Example:

- A couple of people were there.
- A score of houses were damaged.
- "A" or "An" is placed with expressions of price, speed, ratio etc.

Example:

- Sugar sells at 10 rupees a kilogram.
- Colour and water are mixed at a ratio of 1 to 5.

Usage of Definite Article (The):

- As a general rule the definite article is placed before a plural common noun.

Example: The children are playing in the playground.

- The definite article is placed before a common singular noun to particularize the noun.

Example: Let us go and bathe in the river.

- The definite article is sometimes used before a singular common noun to indicate a class or kind of anything and thus made to represent the entire class.

Example: The teacher is talking to the class.

- The definite article is placed before a common noun when it gives the meaning of an abstract noun.

Example: He allowed the father (fatherly feelings) to be over ruled by the judge (feelings of judge) and declared his own son guilty.

- The definite article is placed before the singular common noun to express the superior quality of a person or place or thing.

Example: James is the painter of the day.

- The definite article is used before the names of dignified objects.

Example: The Sun, The Moon, The Earth, The Sky, The Nature, The Sea, The Ocean etc.

- The definite article is placed before superlative adjective.

Example: Honesty is the best policy.

- "The" is placed before an adjective when the noun is understood.

Example: The meek (the meek people) and the humble (the humble people) shall inherit the earth.

- The definite article is used before the names of languages when the meaning of people or nation is understood.

Example: The English (the British people) often fought the French (the French

people).

- In some idiomatic expression the more you work, the more you learn.

The definite article "the" is not generally placed before a proper noun except on the following occasions.

- **Before the names of rivers.**

Example: The Ganges, The Amazon etc.

- **Before the names of groups of islands.**

Example: The East Indies, The Andaman & Nicobar etc.

- **Before the names of ranges of mountains.**

Example: The Himalayas, The Alps etc.

- **Before the names of straits.**

Example: The Palk Strait, The Mannar Strait etc.

- **Before the names of gulfs.**

Example: The Persian Gulf's, The Sind Gulf etc.

- **Before the names of canals.**

Example: The Suez Canal, The Panama Canal, The English Channel etc.

- **Before the names of seas.**

Example: The Arabian Sea, The Red Sea etc.

- **Before the names of oceans.**

Example: The Indian Ocean, The Pacific Ocean etc.

- **Before the names of ships.**

Example: The Victoria, The Delhi, The Harsha etc.

- **Before the names of holy and great books.**

Example: The Bible, The Geetha, The Quran, The Illiad, The Geethanjali, etc.

- **Before the names of journals.**

Example: The Hindu, The Times, The pagoda etc.

- **Before the names of musical instruments.**

Example: The Violin, The Guitar, etc.

- **Before the name of parts of body.**

Example: The head, The shoulders, The hands, etc.

- **Before the names of historical buildings.**

Example: The Buckingham palace, The White House, The Indian Parliament House, etc.

- **Before the names of monuments.**

Example: The Taj Mahal, The Lenin Square etc.

- **Before the names of waterfalls.**

Example: The Niagara, The Shivjog, etc.

- **Before the names of such countries that are formed by the combination of federal states.**

Example: The USA, The UK, The UAE, etc

- **Before the names of historical structures.**

Example: The Liberty statue, The Eiffel tower, The Red fort etc.

- **Before the names of national & international organisations.**

Example: The UNO; The UNESCO; The WHO, The ISRO, The ICRISAT etc.

- **Before the nouns of highest designations.**

Example: The president, The chief justice, The chairman etc.

Omission Of The Article "The":

- **Before a proper noun, a material noun, and an abstract noun.**

- **Before the names of individual islands**

Example: Srilanka, Ireland, Sicily.

- **Before the names of individual mountains or peaks.**

Example: Mount Abu, Mount Everest, etc.

- **Before the names of states or provinces.**

Example:

- Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, etc
- But ----- The Punjab

- **Before the names of towns, cities, villages.**

- **Before the names of countries.**

Example: India, China, etc

- **Before the names of continents.**

Example: Asia, Europe, etc

- **Before the names of lakes,**

Example: Sambhar, Chilka, etc.

- **Before the names of books when the respective authors ` names are mentioned before the names of books**

Example: Tagore's Geethanjali, Homer's Illiad, etc.

- **Before the names of languages**

Example: Telugu, English, Tamil, etc.

- **In well established phrases consisting of a transitive verb followed by its object**

Example: To give ear, to send word, to striate route etc.

- **In phrases consisting of a preposition followed by its object**

Example: To combine water, to be out at sea, to come by train etc.

- **Before the names of buildings or places to which the purpose of visit is known or the visits are regular**

Example:

- He goes to church on Sunday.
- The women are going to the hospital with her child.

