

86. The double forms of the Comparative and Superlative of the Adjectives given in § 85 are used in different ways.

Later, latter; latest, last. - Later and latest refer to time; latter and last refer to position.

He is later than I expected.

I have not heard the latest news.

The latter chapters are lacking in interest.

The last chapter is carelessly written. Ours is the last house in the street.

Page 28

Elder, older; eldest, oldest.- Elder and eldest are used only of persons, not of animals or things; and are now confined to members of the same family. Elder is not used with than following. Older and oldest are used of both persons and things.

John is my elder brother.

Tom is my eldest son.

He is older than his sister.

Rama is the oldest boy in the eleven.

This is the oldest temple in Kolkata.

Farther, further.- Both farther and further are used to express distance. Further, not farther, is used to mean "additional".

Kolkata is farther/further from the equator than Colombo.

After this he made no further remarks.

I must have a reply without further delay.

Nearest, next.- Nearest means the shortest distance away. Next refers to one of a sequence of things coming one after the other.

Mumbai is the seaport nearest to Europe.

Where is the nearest phone box?

Karim's shop is next to the Post Office.

My uncle lives in the next house.

### Exercise in Composition 14

(a) Fill the blank spaces with 'later' or 'latter' :-

1. The majority accepted the --- proposal.
2. The --- part of the book shows signs of hurry.
3. At a --- date, he was placed in charge of the whole taluka.
4. I prefer the --- proposition to the former.
5. Is there no --- news than last week's?

(b) Fill the blank spaces with 'older' or 'elder' :-

1. I have an --- sister.
2. Rama is --- than Had by two years.
3. His --- brother is in the Indian Police Service.
4. She is the --- of the two sisters.
5. The nephew is --- than his uncle.